

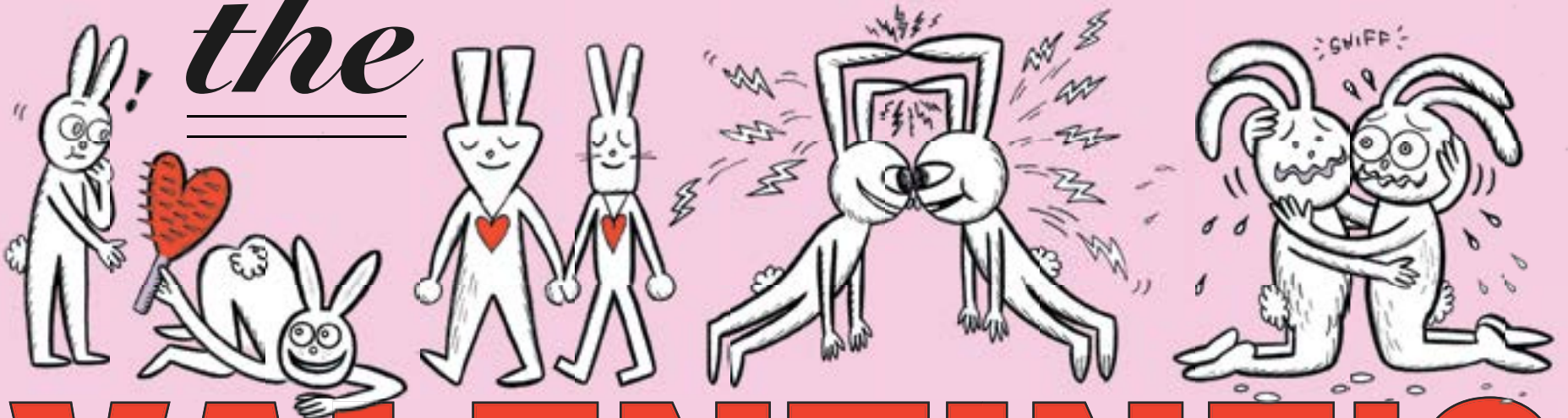
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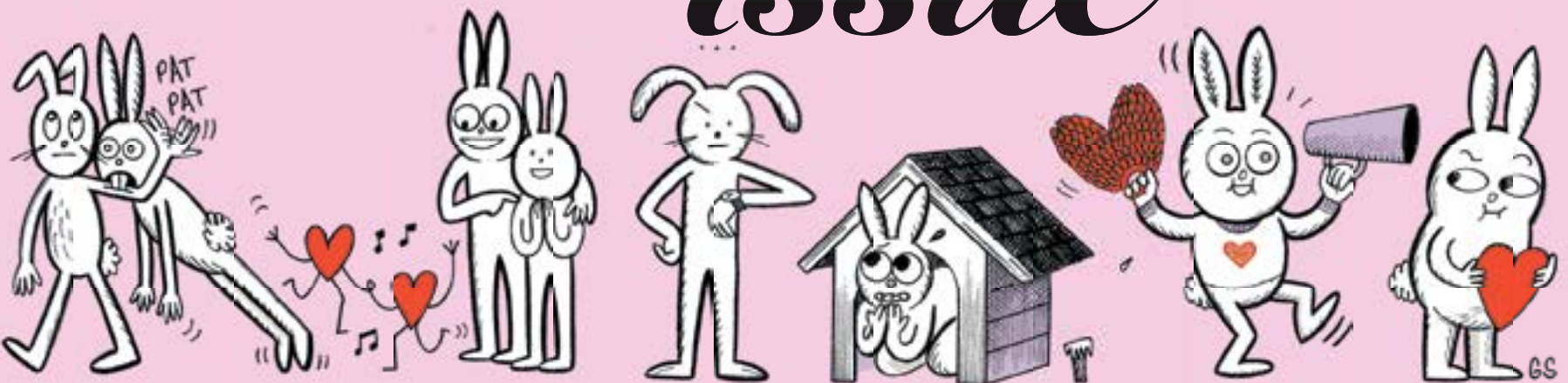
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VALENTINE'S



issue





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FEB. 21, 2019

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VOLUME 28, ISSUE NUMBER 12
January 30–February 12, 2019



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Lovebunnies by Greg Stump
gstump.com

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FORTNIGHT
What you missed if you’ve been groping your lover in a hot tub for the last two weeks.
Plus: Make a special cocktail for Valentine’s Day.

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THE TUNNEL IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT
Did you know they’re putting an eight-lane road on the waterfront right above it?
by Lester Black

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THE VALENTINE’S ISSUE
Love, dating, masturbation, romance, and the most secretive power couple in Seattle.

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her
them

FORTNIGHT

EDITOR'S NOTE



In November of 2017, *The Stranger* filed a petition with the federal court in Seattle to bring more transparency to local authorities' attempts to surveil you. Specifically, the concern was new technology known as pen registers and trap and trace devices, and the secrecy and ease with which the government uses them to collect personal data. Well, we just heard from the US Attorney's Office, and they have agreed to what we were demanding. The court orders surrounding the new technology were formerly top secret, but now authorities are going to track each time they take our data and release that information in semiannual reports. Our former news editor Steven Hsieh initiated the lawsuit, and we were represented by the amazing lawyers at the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation; we couldn't have done it without them (literally—they did all of the work). Nor could we have done it without our new Slog bong. Now any old schmuck off the street (even Joel "Quotation That Makes No Sense in Every Headline" Connelly) can find out how often the government is spying on us. Go team!

Romantic Recipes

Nothing says Valentine's Day like a specialty cocktail. Sweep your lover off their feet with one of these sweet sips!

The Blind Date

This is the perfect cocktail to accompany your Valentine's Day blind date! Makes two great drinks that taste even better after a kiss! It also supports hair & nail, skin, joint, and digestive health.

Ingredients

- 1 11-ounce container (half full) of Vanilla Keto Collagen protein powder
- 1 ounce crème de cacao
- 1 teaspoon chocolate syrup
- 1 ounce half-and-half
- 6 ounces Kahlua liqueur
- Wood skewer soaked in liquid smoke overnight
- 1 package Haribo gummy bears

Directions

Add all liquid ingredients to Vanilla Keto Collagen protein powder in the container. Fill to top with crushed ice. Tightly screw on lid and shake. Let sit for seven minutes so flavors marry. While Blind Date is sitting, impale Haribo gummy bears on skewer. Add skewered gummies and drink from container.

Sexy Fist Pie

Skip the crowded restaurants and make this all-in-one drink/dinner/dessert recipe and let the juices FLOW...

Ingredients

- 1 pound 85 percent lean ground chuck
- 1 ounce Sweet Baby Ray's® Barbecue Sauce
- 4 ounces IZZE Sparkling Juice (peach)
- 2 ounces peach puree
- 1 ounce half-and-half
- 6 ounces vodka
- 1 tablespoon basil olive oil
- 1 tablespoon sea salt
- 2 canned peach slices
- 3 scoops Cherry Garcia ice cream

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together ground beef and Sweet Baby Ray's® Barbecue Sauce.

Mound on cookie sheet. Punch mound in center. Bake for 30 minutes.

While it bakes: In a cocktail shaker, mix IZZE Sparkling Juice, peach puree, half-and-half, and vodka.

When beef mound is ready, pour the peach drink mixture into the beef mound. Add three scoops of ice cream. Drizzle basil olive oil over top of float and sprinkle with sea salt. Garnish with peach slice and sprig of fresh basil.

Serve in a coconut shell.

I, ANONYMOUS



STEVEN WEISSMAN

None of us planned to duck under the caution tape to take a stroll on the viaduct, already being dismantled as we made our way south from the Western Avenue exit. But then we saw some other people were doing it, so we joined them. A little friendly civil disobedience. An impromptu goodbye party. As we milled about waiting to capture our Insta-sunset gold, some with open containers, some with lit pre-rolls, a cop called out, "This is private property and you are trespassing!" But he yelled it half-heartedly and took no action. I think he was just as happy to be sharing in that moment as we were. A sunny January day, the mountains showing off, the walk of a lifetime. Even the sun seemed to linger in the sky longer than it usually does this time of year. It felt like we could all hold on to this perfect day forever. **ANONYMOUS**

SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

E-mail 200 words or less to
ianonymous@thestranger.com



Howard Schultz, the man who is responsible for Seattle no longer having an NBA team, now wants to be the man responsible for **re-electing Donald Trump** in 2020. Schultz announced in a *60 Minutes* interview that he is considering funding his own independent campaign for president. Since he is a lifelong Democrat, this could easily siphon votes away from whoever is the Democratic presidential nominee and ensure the White House stays in Republican hands. But he's a billionaire, so he can do whatever he wants. Maybe Schultz is just giving his old Starbucks employees a very public webinar on the power of white male privilege.

While at **Kremwerk** for a January show headlined by Dutch techno producer **Martyn**, a *Stranger* staffer heard his bi male friend say: "I hate dancing around gays. They demand attention and always want to grope me." That is the humblebrag to beat in 2019.

Essential-oil-sniffing **anti-vaxxers** in Clark County, Washington, have contributed to the latest viral trend: **measles**. At least 34 people in that county have tested positive for the preventable disease, leading officials to declare a **public-health emergency**. Parents, no matter what Jaron down at the co-op says, vaccinate your goddamn children.

In a classic case of too much time and too little crime on their hands, Redmond police arrested a jaywalker after he failed to stop on their command, citing "obstruction of justice." According to friends and witnesses, the young man **spent 24 hours in jail**, the cops accused

him of dealing drugs and took his birthday money (his 21st was only a few days away), and supposedly neither the money nor his phone and belongings were returned after his release. Find the story at the GoFundMe campaign Help Björn Get Civil Rights Attorney.



STEPHEN BRASHEAR/GETTY
Crappuccino!

Blue Origin, the private aerospace manufacturer and space-flight services company founded and funded by **Jeff Bezos**, celebrated a successful mission when its *New Shepard* spacecraft went on a short unmanned test flight (its 10th ever) carrying at least eight NASA-sponsored research and technology payloads to sub-orbital space and back.


Big shake-ups came to South Seattle's District 2 city council race in January. Incumbent **Bruce Harrell** announced he wouldn't seek reelection after **Tammy Morales** announced her candidacy. After Harrell dropped out, two other candidates entered

the race: **Phyllis Porter**, a bicyclist and community activist, and **Christopher Peguero**, a City Light employee.

The man who sold the Seattle SuperSonics wants to get Trump reelected.

If you go to **Belltown Yacht Club**, the übercool new music venue attached to **Screwdriver Bar**, described in more detail by Dave Segal on page 37, you'll notice a panoply of paraphernalia on the walls and encased in the bar and table surfaces. One such artifact is a 7-inch single by **the Sonics**, a pioneering garage-rock band from Tacoma: 1965's "Psycho"/"Keep A' Knock'in." If it's an original pressing, it's worth about \$80. Someday, a determined collector is going to chip away at the table in which it's imprisoned and liberate that platter. ■

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COURTESY OF WATERFRONT SEATTLE OF

The three-lane-wide viaduct is being replaced by a surface street that's six to eight lanes wide.

ViaFucked

The waterfront tunnel is worse than we thought.

BY LESTER BLACK

Former Seattle mayor Greg Nickels liked to invoke Ronald Reagan when describing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. “Tear down this wall!” he would say at press conferences, referencing the raised highway’s wall-like qualities that cut downtown off from the waterfront.

Nickels, along with a bunch of other Democrats, wanted to bury Highway 99 in a tunnel in order to “reconnect our city to the water,” in his words.

Nickels and the rest of the gang got their wish. Taxpayers are forking over what will likely be more than \$4 billion when the last bill is paid on this new tunnel. But after the viaduct comes down, it will not be replaced by the rolling parks a lot of us believed we would be getting along the waterfront. Nor will it be replaced with new buildings or vibrant street life.

It will be replaced by a highway-like road that swells to eight lanes wide in some sections. The viaduct was only three lanes wide (stacked double). Looking across the new road won't feel like looking across the idyllic waterfront promenade that politicians said they would build. It will feel like looking across Aurora Avenue in North Seattle.

In other words, we're tearing down our concrete wall only to replace it with a wall of cars.

Why are we building this infrastructure for automobile traffic on surface streets when we just spent \$4 billion on a tunnel exclusively for cars? Because the tunnel is a conceptual failure. The four-lane tunnel has a far smaller capacity than the raised highway it's replacing.

It lacks the viaduct's downtown exits, and it cannot handle the viaduct's bus traf-

fic. So where have the powers that be decided to put that leftover traffic that can't fit in the shiny new tunnel? On the waterfront! At the northernmost end of the waterfront, the new road will be only four lanes wide, but then there's a lane for parking on each side, which puts the full width at six lanes.

It's not going to look like a park along the waterfront. It will look more like Aurora.

At the south end of Alaskan Way, the capacity for moving vehicles is going to swell to eight lanes wide.

The fact that we're giving cars priority on our waterfront is insulting when you realize what kind of mass transit we could have built with the money we have thrown into this car-only tunnel.

Take a closer look at the tunnel's \$3.2 billion budget, which after more than four years of delays and construction problems will likely put us over \$4 billion. Put that number in perspective. Building light rail to Ballard will cost around \$2.5 billion. Building light rail to West Seattle will cost around \$1.5 billion. Both of those estimates come from Sound Transit.

That means this tunnel (which the state needs to subsidize just to persuade drivers to use it—more on that in a second) will end up costing roughly the same amount as it would to connect every single neighborhood from Ballard to West Seattle to light rail.

Trains are transformative. People will move into neighborhoods to take advantage of them. The tunnel is the opposite of that.

As for the state subsidizing drivers to take the tunnel: Yes, you read that correctly. The state is essentially going to pay motorists to drive through this tunnel.

When the state legislature originally approved funding for the new tunnel, they pledged to raise \$400 million in the form of tolls. But the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) realized that they would have to charge a \$4 toll rate to raise that much money. The problem is, this tunnel isn't worth \$4 to motorists. It's a very short tunnel and it has no downtown exits. If the state charged \$4 just to drive through the tunnel, most drivers would choose surface streets and the tunnel would remain empty.

WSDOT decided to charge just \$1 in off hours and increase the toll to \$2.25 during peak hours. That means a bus ride in this city (\$2.75) will be more expensive than taking your private car in this tunnel, and sometimes a bus ride will cost almost three times the price of driving your car into the city. How does that make sense?

Tearing down the Alaskan Way Viaduct should have been a monumental move away from cars and toward increasing mass transit, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian usability—a paradigm shift in Seattle’s transportation network fit for the 21st century. Investing in transit instead of car infrastructure would have been better for the city, better for the environment, better for the waterfront, and better for economic opportunity.

Instead, we've just built another monument to cars. ■

the VALENTINE'S issue

Stranger writers on love, dating, masturbation, romance, and the most secretive power couple in the city.

INTRO BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

As Valentine's Day approaches, half the staff of *The Stranger* is frantically making romantic plans, and the other half DGAF.

Among the planners, one heterosexual said she had just "ordered a gluten-free Deathcake" from Cupcake Royale that she will "probably share" with her partner. Another said, "Maybe wax? Get a nice wax." Another said, "Trying not to masturbate."

In the other camp, one of the queers on staff said, "I don't celebrate Christmas. I definitely don't celebrate Valentine's Day." Another said, "I didn't do Thanksgiving this year. We missed Christmas. I think I was too drunk to celebrate New Year's. I'll

probably get a bunch of weed, but that's just for me."

Everyone's different—just like every relationship is different.

For this love-themed issue of *The Stranger*, Lester Black takes a look at the most powerful couple in the Pacific Northwest, Mayor Jenny Durkan and her partner, Dana Garvey. We're not sure how they met, because they refused to tell us, just as they've refused to disclose a bunch of other things political couples usually disclose: page 9.

If you are sick of online dating and you want some help meeting someone IRL, you should read up on the Offline Movement: page 16.

If you already have someone to date but you don't know what the hell to do together, consider

the Mystery app, which will plan a date for you, customized to your interests: page 11.

If you're trying to go on a date but you have a 1-year-old at home, ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. Leilani Polk knows that old story all too well: page 13.

If you're looking for some self-empowerment as a single person, check out Jasmyne Keimig's gorgeous essay: page 15.

Can astrology predict romantic compatibility? Or is astrology bullshit? Dave Segal has some anecdotal insights: page 18.

And what about mixed-cannabis couples—one smokes and the other doesn't? Can it last? Katie Herzog, who smokes her body weight in weed daily, weighs in: page 21. ■



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The Power Couple Running Seattle

What we know about the mayor and the art scholar.

BY LESTER BLACK

Mayor Jenny Durkan doesn't want to talk about her private life. Which is too bad, because it must be a hell of a story.

It's hard to imagine Durkan's success in politics could have happened 20 years ago. The general public, even the supposedly liberal Democratic Party, was openly hostile to LGBTQ people back then. Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, instituting homophobia into federal law.

After decades of strong, brave women blazing a trail and fighting for equal rights, we now live in a world where a lesbian can become the most powerful person in a major American city. The irony of the mayor not wanting to talk about that is that Durkan is herself one of those women who forced society to change, paving the way for future generations of women and LGBTQ people. So is Dana Garvey, Durkan's longtime partner, with whom the mayor has two children.

The mayor's office declined to let Durkan be interviewed for this story.

Even though the mayor's office declined to let *The Stranger* interview Durkan, we do know some information from public records and other press reports. Durkan is one of seven kids born to a powerful Seattle-area political family. She got her law degree at University of Washington in 1985. She rose through the ranks of the legal profession, starting as a public defender and eventually becoming the first openly gay US Attorney in history. She later worked as a private corporate attorney, with clients like Coca-Cola and FIFA, in a role that she has said would have paid her nearly \$2 million a year if she hadn't become mayor.

While Durkan worked in the public sector, Garvey broke barriers in the world of high-stakes corporate business. Garvey was a senior executive at McCaw Cellular/AT&T, one of the country's largest cellular communication firms during a period of momentous change in the wireless industry. She later launched her own start-up, D. Garvey Corp, that employed more than 255 people in the "development and construction of large-sale wireless networks," according to a biography published on the website of her latest venture, IconAlytics, Ltd. Garvey started IconAlytics, a company that authenticates art, after getting her PhD in art history from the University of Washington.

They are easily one of Seattle's most



COLLAGE ART BY JESSICA STEIN, PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, KELLY O.

Jenny Durkan and Dana Garvey have a lot of money and tremendous influence.

powerful couples, if not *the* most powerful couple in the Pacific Northwest. It's a story worthy of a book, although they're not likely to publish it anytime soon. Durkan has described Garvey as "unbelievably private" (according to the *Seattle Times*). In addition to declining an in-person interview request from *The Stranger*, the mayor's office declined to answer written questions for this story—from serious inquiries about financial disclosure to softball questions like how they met and what they think of being leaders in the LGBTQ community.

Even though we are referring to Garvey as Durkan's "partner," they are not registered domestic partners and they are not married. Because of this, Durkan is able to shield Garvey from much of the public disclosures that the spouses of previous Seattle mayors have been subjected to.

Seattle mayors, like all city employees, are required to file financial disclosure forms that clearly describe what they own and their business relationships. That disclosure requirement extends to the spouses of politicians because Washington is a "community

property" state, where your assets are shared with your legal partners, according to Wayne Barnett, executive director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission. These disclosures are intended to prevent public officials from making decisions that directly benefit their own finances. We wouldn't want an official awarding contracts to their own business, and disclosing their assets publicly helps prevent such moves.

"It's about making sure that everyone can be on guard for self-dealing," Barnett said. "We would not want a mayor or a city councilmember or even a city employee taking actions that would benefit themselves."

These laws apply to Durkan, who filed a financial disclosure statement in which she said she was worth \$5.75 million (including a checking account with more than a million dollars in it and stock in Costco and a company called Nanometrics). But what Garvey is worth (and what she invests in) is anyone's guess.

By all indications, Garvey is worth a lot of money. Not only has she worked in high-paying corporate jobs, and not only does she own

her own companies, but she very likely started her life with some change in the bank. Her father was a Louisiana telecom magnate who sold his wireless telecommunications firm for \$400 million, according to an obituary published in the *Times-Picayune* in New Orleans.

Garvey also purchased a 70-acre lot on Whidbey Island for \$3.4 million in 2001, what was then the island's most expensive residential property purchase, according to the *South Whidbey Record*. David Kroman, a Crosscut reporter, uncovered details about a new house the couple is building in Garvey's name; they reportedly purchased the \$4 million house in 2015 at an undisclosed location in Seattle, demolished it, and then set out to build a 5,000-square-foot mansion worth \$7.5 million in its place. Crosscut didn't publish the address, noting that Durkan has received death threats from her work as a US Attorney. *The Stranger* will not publish it, either.

But it makes you wonder: What do they not want the public to know? Are they hiding anything from us? These are valid questions to ask any political leader. Similar questions have dogged President Donald Trump since his decision, during the 2016 campaign, not to release his tax returns.

More questions come to mind: How many companies does Garvey own or have a stake in? What stocks are in her investment portfolio? Considering her wealth and her PhD in art history, what paintings does she own? Will a Georgia O'Keeffe or a Jean-Michel Basquiat hang in their new house?

Because Durkan hasn't voluntarily disclosed Garvey's assets, and because her office declined to provide any information for this story, we have no way to know. I should reiterate: Durkan has not broken any laws by being private about her family's finances. (Neither has Trump by not disclosing his tax returns.)

"The ethics laws on the books do bar the mayor from taking any action in which her partner has a financial interest," Barnett said. "There is no reason to think that she is not complying with those laws."

Nevertheless, she is going against the precedent set by our last two mayors. Mayor Ed Murray's husband, who was also a city employee, would frequently speak to news outlets and be photographed for stories. By contrast, few public photos of Garvey exist anywhere.

The mayor before Murray, Mike McGinn, was so transparent with the media and the public that he made not only his wife but also his children available to reporters by inviting the staff of *The Stranger* to his house for long, poorly lit barbecues in his North Seattle backyard.

Meanwhile, our current mayor and her partner are harder to find than a sunny February day in Seattle. That's a shame, because they probably have an inspiring story to tell. ■

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EUGENIA LOLI

Mystery officially launches on Valentine's Day. Go to trymystery.com.

The App That Plans a Date for You

It's called Mystery, and it requires a leap of faith.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM

Myystery is not an app that finds you a date. It's for people who already have a date and want to know what the hell to do together. Founder Shane Kovalsky had noticed that everyone around him had sort of given up. Not in general, but with leisure time. The same old story of being tired and opting for Netflix instead of going out into the city and trying something.

"I just think the best part of life is experiencing things and being able to get out there and do something new," Kovalsky told me. "And the problem is, it takes a lot of planning, and planning is like homework."

Mystery officially launches on Valentine's Day, but my boyfriend, Harry, and I tried it when it was in beta. Right now, Mystery is just a website (trymystery.com), but the app launches in March. On the website, we entered our information, our preferences, and our budget—and then we left our Saturday night up to chance. All we knew was that the attire was casual and that a Lyft would pick us up at 6:30 p.m.

The car arrived on time and dropped us off at a Fremont cigar shop. We looked at each other, puzzled. Then Harry's phone buzzed. More instructions: "Your first stop is at B. Fuller's Mortar & Pestle. You will be doing a one-hour tea tasting. Will is your guide."

The sign was just up the street. It was attached to a hole-in-the-wall shop I must have walked past a hundred times and never noticed. We pushed open the door, past the "closed for private tasting event" sign. Every inch of wall space was covered with jars of loose-leaf tea. A man wearing a steampunk three-piece suit pulled out the pocket watch tucked into his vest. "Are you here for the tea tasting?"

Will rolled out a huge wooden tea cart. There were beakers and electric kettles. There were mason jars filled with tea. We

were grinning. How did we end up here?

Mystery pairs people with an experience that's personally curated for them. As Kovalsky explained to me, "I wanted to create something that gave you a way to basically cheat and have this awesome experience without having to do any of the work." The app polls you on whether you like classes or physical experiences, if you're into loud settings, and what kind of food you like. It takes the stress away from looking at a Yelp page with a thousand different high-rated options that aren't necessarily the right fit for you.

"There's this option paralysis that makes you go to the same spot every time you go out," Kovalsky said. "People really want to do something, they just need an avenue. We're providing that."

Harry and I sipped different strains of green, oolong, and black teas out of dainty tasting cups. We learned that all tea comes from the same plant, called *camellia sinensis*. Did you know that? We didn't. We tried a bunch of tea leaves packed into a dense cake called pu'er. The Chinese age it like wine. It tasted kind of like dirt, but we both liked it. We had seconds, then thirds.

After an hour and a half, we got another text: "Your next stop is just down the street at a speakeasy called the Backdoor. Have a drink, the first two are on us."

Part of what's great about Mystery is that it's hands-off. It's entirely card-less. Everything is arranged and paid for. You have to pay, too—but in the moment, it feels like a magical experience.

At the Backdoor, I sipped a cocktail called an Aphrotesiac, to fit with the tea theme. Harry ordered the bartender's choice, Ya Gotta Have Faith, to fit with the theme of giving up control. The light coming from the chandeliers was gentle and soft. We held hands the whole time, joking about our future as tea enthusiasts. ■



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Date Nights Gone Wrong

The slapstick comedy of trying to eat out with a romantic partner when you have a 1-year-old at home.

BY LEILANI POLK

A little after my daughter had her first birthday and started walking around unaided, she turned into a fucking monster. She had her delightful moments, sure, but they were often inexplicably interrupted by meltdowns of such exuberant power that she left us shell-shocked and exhausted once the fierce gale had passed. She was Jekyll and Hyde, and we were both her captive audience and reluctant victims.

Part of it was that she was growing a whole new set of (extra sharp) teeth, and part of it was the effects of toddler regression, wherein she was so thoroughly focused on learning a new skill (walking) that she temporarily regressed in other areas (like sleeping peacefully through the night, something we were damn lucky to have had up to that point). Both the teeth pain and the turbulent sleep made her cranky as hell and added fuel to those off-the-chart mood swings.

She had also become clingier and conversely more insistent about her independence, more demanding and utterly impatient about what she wanted (like shrieking at me for snacks as I was, at that very moment, getting her snacks).

And those throw-herself-on-the-floor meltdowns? They'd be comical if they weren't so deafening.

Right around this time, her dad and I realized we hadn't been alone together (without the child sleeping nearby) for more than an hour since before she was born. We hadn't been in some sort of date situation in well over a year.

You'd think it would be as easy as finding a babysitter. In fact, we had two different nannies we could call on to babysit. It was more about making and executing a plan successfully, and nothing going wrong in any part of the process.

On one occasion, the nanny canceled about an hour before she was due to arrive because she'd unexpectedly started throwing up. On another occasion, the other nanny canceled the day before because she'd just found out her youngest son had whooping cough.

Then there was that date night we actually *did* make it out. The outcome of that evening was foreshadowed when my part-



EUGENIA LOLI

You'd think it would be as easy as finding a babysitter. You would be wrong.

ner—a person who rarely gets sick, who has a cast-iron stomach, who I'd never seen throw up or even be nauseated during our entire four years together—started grumbling about having a stomachache.

The nanny canceled last-minute because she'd unexpectedly started throwing up.

After we dropped the child off with the sitter in Wallingford, he insisted we hunt down some yogurt, as he was convinced live cultures would help his gut. We had about an hour to kill before the restaurant opened, so we stopped at Walgreens, snagged him a Yoplait, and made a beeline across the street to Archie McPhee, for fun but also to look for a yogurt-eating utensil. (We ended up with a switchblade spork, which is exact-

ly what it sounds like.) Then we ducked into the Bounty, where, in hindsight, we could have gotten a proper spoon. I had a latte; he had a beer. Bad idea.

As we were headed to Bizzarro Italian Cafe, crossing 45th Street, he simultaneously started projectile vomiting and trying to sprint out of the street, spewing a chunky, frothy stream onto the road, and then the curb, in full view of the people waiting at the light. They likely thought he was some dumb drunk college kid and not a grown-ass man with serious ills who was usually quite stoic, thank you very much. But at that moment, he was caught up in the sheer force of his ills.

In between heavens, he moaned apologies. And after he seemed to regain a measure of control—even though he was still panting a little and sweating—my lover, ever the trooper, said, “I think I’m good now.” As if we could just stroll into the restaurant and he wouldn’t blanch and gag at the first scent of garlic. At this point, it was pretty clear to me, if not to him, that his “stomachache” was either food poisoning or one of those awful

24-hour bugs, both of which indicated he wouldn’t be able to eat anything for a while yet. The date was abandoned.

Now, I’m not saying we’ve *never* had a successful night out. There have been a few.

On one occasion, we went to Osteria la Spiga and had a leisurely (and rather decadent) meal. Fine wine! Craft beer! A charcuterie plate! Of course, in our hurry to get out of the house, he’d forgotten his ID, so instead of after-dinner drinks, we picked up a six-pack on the way back and streamed movies on the couch (the child was asleep by the time we got home).

On another night, we had a nice evening of shopping (Victoria’s Secret!—and no, he didn’t join me in the dressing room, that’s creepy), followed by dinner at the Virginia Inn, a totally random discovery for us and a big winner.

Another “successful” date happened while our daughter was in the ICU, after a bout of croup turned serious and she had to be intubated because her throat closed up. It was our third night of sleeping at the hospital. Both of us were at our wit’s end, exhausted and undernourished on cafeteria food and “healthy” snacks. The nurse suggested

we go out for a bite to eat, pointing out the obvious fact that ICU nurses were the best babysitters. Or maybe she just said “nurses,” I’m not sure. I was pretty delirious at that point, and “food” and “outside” and “babysitter” were what I heard most clearly.

So we stepped out and went to an Italian joint a few blocks from Seattle Children’s Hospital called Varlamos Pizzeria. He had a giant plate of chicken Parmesan. I had the *best* gluten-free pie I’d never expected and a few glasses of prosecco. We both enjoyed a brief period of blissful peace in the cozy, candlelit dining room, and headed back to the ICU feeling warmed and renewed. It made that last night at the hospital bearable.

Just a few weeks ago, when we were in Florida over the holidays visiting family, his parents watched our daughter for about 90 minutes while we had a quick (but satisfying) dinner at a nearby sushi and Thai joint. We haven’t had a proper night out since then.

But I’ve reserved a sitter for next Saturday. Fingers crossed on the outcome. ■

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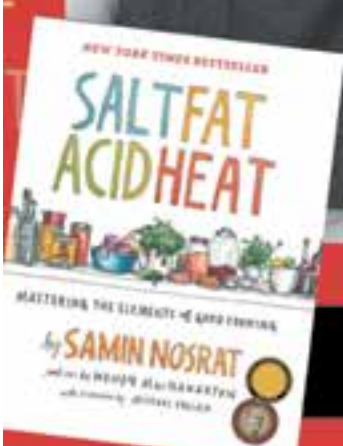







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Places I Have Masturbated

This is not a complete list.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

IN MY CHILDHOOD BEDROOM

It was in our house near the highway, with all the lights on and a chair strategically blocking my door to prevent anyone from coming in.

No one ever told me what an orgasm felt like. I guess no one ever does. Just: “It feels really good.” When I had one for the first time in that room, I expected a whole new feeling to take me over. To experience something I’d never experienced before—like smelling purple or tasting crosshatch.

Instead, I discovered an orgasm was only a deepening of a familiar sensation. I remember immediately comparing it to the most satisfying of yawns. A stretch that stretches you all the way out, almost skinning you. A release of profound tension. After I finished, I rolled over and stared at my fingers. And took a sniff. Huh. Me.

IN VARIOUS SHOWERS IN VARIOUS DORMS AROUND MY COLLEGE CAMPUS

I run through all the terms vagina-centric masturbation can be called. “Jill-ing off” (blech), “flicking the bean,” “saucing the taco,” “gilding the lily.” The only one I find myself attracted to is “polishing the pearl,” which captures the motion well and makes my clit sound precious, something to discover and treasure.

IN AN UPSTAIRS BEDROOM OF A DAMP AND UNKEMPT COLLEGE-OWNED HOUSE

I use this time to compose what I’m sure will be my Pulitzer Prize–winning book of erotic limericks. Each stroke, a line: “Eyes so brown you make me slick / Sweat from your collarbone I want to lick / etc., etc./ etc., etc. / I want to see your dick.” God, so great. Another: “If you want to hear me moan / If you want to hear me shout / Take off both my Tevas, please / And start to eat me out.”

Even though that last one isn’t a limerick, I come laughing.

IN A BED IN SPAIN

This particular bed in Galicia was just large enough for one person to lie down comfortably in the center. The cheap cotton sheets constantly pillled. In the morning when I lifted my shades, I’d see a 75-year-old Galician man leaning out the window, smoking a cigarette and looking at the street below.

I bought a vibrator off Amazon using a Christmas gift card. Out of respect for my roommates, I played music whenever I masturbated in the late afternoon. I



EUGENIA LOLI

Also known as self-empowerment for single people.

thought this noise would muffle the persistent and unmistakable buzzing of my vibe that easily traveled through the paper-thin walls of our apartment, which were composed of cheap plaster, thrown

motor ever spontaneously exploded. I put it under my pillow for safekeeping.

IN A BAR IN GALICIA

It had the worst fluorescent lighting, and “Give It Away” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers was blasting from the shitty speakers in the ceiling. There was a line of beautiful and heavily perfumed Spanish women outside the door and no toilet paper. I was very drunk. Unrequited desire brought me here. Not my best moment.

IN A GALICIAN BEDROOM

It had no natural light because it faced an inner patio of the apartment building, creating a perpetual evening.

I fantasized that he came to me as a bull. As he ambled through my doorway, reek-

ing of scented oils, his black and gray hide shone in the dim glow of the morning light that filtered through my blinds. Between his teeth, a bundle of bright-yellow gorse.

I led this man-as-bull-as-god by the brass ring going through his nose over to my bed, the sound of his hooves clacking against the wood. In this reverie, in this early morning daydream, I let the man-as-bull-as-god make love to me, not as a beast, but as radiant light. Surrounding me, suffusing me, consuming me, becoming me, unmaking me. Our desire-as-infatuation-as-fantasy-as-love giving birth to pure rage and dissatisfaction, to be kept in the farthest corner of the most elaborate labyrinth of our hearts. I did not come.

IN A 12-PERSON HOSTEL BEDROOM IN PRAGUE

Quickly. Alone. I accidentally leaked a little period blood on the cot, which had the bleachy smell of a hospital bed.

The night after, a South African boy asked me if there’s a difference between having sex with black people and having sex with white people. I watched our fellow hostelmates do shots of absinthe behind him. I don’t remember what I said, because it was a dumb question. It made me think he thought of my body as something outside the realm of anything he’d know. Sometimes I think about that moment and wish I had leaned over and whispered, “Yes—nipple color.”

IN THE LAST BED I’LL EVER CALL MINE IN SPAIN

It was on the fourth floor of an apartment building with no elevator that looked out onto the valley of the tiny Galician city it was situated in.

I wonder if I’m too self-sufficient. If this ability to pleasure myself, this independence, this lack of having had a partner or long-term romantic relationship inhibits me in some unforeseen way. Is my vulnerability at risk? My empathy? Am I secretly some sort of monster who can’t connect!? I calm down—probably not. In any case, I’m more interested in wanting not needing, in knowing myself and my body, in pleasure, in alternative ways of being an un-partnered woman in this world.

Thinking this, I come really hard.

IN A COMFORTABLE BED A FEW MILES NORTH OF THE CITY OF BOTHELL

I come in a giant sweater, braless, in holey underwear, a silk scarf wrapped around my freshly twisted hair, thinking of nothing in particular, nothing at all. ■

Sometimes I wonder if I’m too self-sufficient.

up quickly after the fall of fascism.

I discovered that, using this vibe, I could come within the space of “Redbone” by Childish Gambino. Coming that fast seemed like cheating, artless. Often, afterward, I’d lie there pondering this device I put against my most vulnerable parts, thinking about what would happen to my vagina if the



COLLAGE ART BY THE STRANGER. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER AND THE OFFLINE MOVEMENT

The Offline Movement harks back to a time of pre-app (IRL) dating.

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A little black bracelet wants to get people off dating apps and into the world.

BY RICH SMITH

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When you first fire up a dating app, the universe seems full of possibility. You're playing a no-stakes game of hot-or-not on a website full of single people extremely excited to tell you how tall they are. Matching with a cool-looking person does approximate the thrill of catching an eye across the room. And scrutinizing the wild profiles of weirdos and the shockingly basic profiles of normals is a bottomless joy.

If you're still on the apps six months later, however, you come to the realization that you've outsourced your romantic life to a data-collection service. Six months after that, you've deleted and re-downloaded the app more times than you can count, because what else is there? By then, you're probably not even going on dates. You're just swiping to score that dopamine hit from matching with a stranger. It's pitiful.

That's not how it is for *everyone*, obviously, but that's more or less what happened to Michelle Preston, 37, a general contractor from Bothell. She got on the apps after a divorce three years ago. At first, she said, it was fun. She'd match with a lot of guys, and all of them would chat with her, but none of them would ask her out. After a while, she decided she needed to break the cycle. So she started a company that she hopes will be a movement. It's called the Offline Movement.

Preston sells \$9 black silicone wristbands that say "Move>>Offline" in white lettering. The band is a signal to the world that says, "I'm single and I'd like to be approached." Preston is launching the band on Valentine's Day at Civility & Unrest in Bellevue. After her local launch, she's planning to expand to six other cities: Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, San Francisco, and Portland.

"The idea is that you can wear this thing anywhere," Preston said after admitting it's basically a black Livestrong bracelet with

a different message. "It's not just for going to the bars or clubbing. It's for when you're out doing things you like to do. It's a tool to help people identify others who are single, others who are sick of the game, sick of the apps just like I am."

The idea for the bracelet came to her after she ditched the apps and struck out into the world solo, an adventure she chronicles on her blog, Carhartts & Heels. After getting burned by men she'd approach in public who ended up being married or otherwise unavailable, she thought up the wedding ring for single people.

"Wouldn't it be cool if you could walk into a Starbucks and automatically be able to tell if someone was single or married?" she thought. Such a device would reduce the risk of outright rejection on technical grounds and encourage real human interactions.

Throughout history, single people have developed ways to signal their status. Amorous but rule-bound Victorian women, for instance, used a discreet fan language at parties to communicate with potential suitors. A woman carrying her fan in her left hand meant she was "desirous of an acquaintance," according to a list of "fan flirtations" from a 1866 issue of *Cassell's Magazine*. Drawing the fan across the cheek was a declaration of love. For decades, gay men used handkerchiefs to signal various kinds of availability. Teens and ravers are forever coming up with elaborate bracelet codes that indicate sexual desires.

"It's a very passive, subtle hint," Preston said. "If somebody recognizes it, you know they already hate online dating and the fake lives people are living on Facebook, which is a great icebreaker. You'll know they want to move on and try to find a real connection."

To answer the obvious question: Yes, the Offline Movement is online. The place to get a bracelet is theofflinemovement.com. ■

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OPEN DAILY



Using astrology to assess romantic compatibility is bullshit. Or is it?

EUGENIA LOLI

Taurus vs. Cancer

A nutty romantic odyssey.

BY DAVE SEGAL

Astrology is bullshit. People should stop being so gullible and delusional. No! Astrology can be useful in discerning personality traits, providing helpful romantic tips, and offering insights into people's idiosyncrasies.

Listen: It's possible to concur with both views. After a brief obsession with astrology in the 1990s, I gained just enough knowledge about the zodiac to bluff my way through party conversations and to believe that this pseudoscience is neither piffle nor panacea... I think!

Being an Aries-Taurus cusp motherfucker with Virgo rising and moon in Scorpio, I possess the natural ability to see benefits to multiple sides of nearly every issue—and, bonus, the predisposition to copyedit your suicide note. I have so many conflicting forces swirling inside of me, it's a miracle I can finish this goddamn sentence.

Such zodiacal traits often hinder my success in romance. Take my dating history with Cancer women. It just so happens that I've had serious relationships with four of them. Seventy-five percent of those went awry; I assume 50 percent of the responsibility for these failures. In the words of your least favorite politicians, mistakes were made. Certainly, I have flaws (any dilltante knows Taureans are stubborn, secretive, and prone to workaholism). But at least I don't snore.

Conventional astrological wisdom says Taurus-Cancer matches make for a solid love connection. Dig: My late Taurus mother and Cancer father were married for 48 years. Popular author Joanna Martine Woolfolk

wrote in *The Only Astrology Book You'll Ever Need*: "Both are home-lovers, sentimentalists, and highly sexed."

That's not necessarily true. And anyway, for two decades, my experience has been that this supposed compatibility between Taurus men and Cancer women is folly.

The first Cancer woman was a massage therapist whom I met when I was living in Cleveland. On our initial date, Toni (all names have been changed) and I went to a

It just so happens I've had serious relationships with four Cancer women.

beachfront park near beautiful Lake Erie. There, she explained that any potential suitor needed to understand that she was worthy of being treated like a goddess if he had any hope of getting within sniffing distance of her yoni. My eyes rolled internally, but nevertheless, I persisted.

While I'm loath to ascribe our differences to astrology, the truth is we just didn't jell. Toni's frequent, abrupt mood swings made me anxious. I dislike drama/conflict, and the emotional whiplashing exhausted me. Our togetherness ended after a few months when one day an argument whose gist now escapes me made my brain somersault until it vomited. I literally ran out of her house. About a week later, she appeared unannounced at my building at 3 a.m. She wanted

"closure." I wanted to sleep.

The worst thing about this? I never even got a massage!

The second Cancer woman, Rose—a record-store clerk, zine writer, and music fanatic—had been my friend for years. After three-quarters of my music collection was stolen, she'd given me a care package of several CD-Rs of albums she thought I'd want—and threw in an Angela Carter novel. I was touched.

We seemed destined for eternal platonic nerd symbiosis, until one day she decided she wanted to take this thing to the next level. I was surprised, but down for whatever.

While everything was okay with Rose, I felt no spark. "Whatever" became my dominant feeling whenever she wanted to meet. I sensed an encroaching neediness that I couldn't reciprocate. I'd hate to blame the stars for the mismatch. I think it was a classic case of good friends becoming lovers and then—POOF—the friendship dies when the infatuation fades.

The third woman, Pam, flaunted musical tastes that synched up with mine almost exactly. I felt like I'd met my female doppelgänger. We started to DJ together at various venues around Seattle and had some amazing successes. Trouble was, the only places we had any real chemistry were behind turntables and in record stores.

The relationship lasted more than four years, but it probably should have been terminated after four months. Red flags arose early. In the first month, with no remorse, she admitted she'd cheated on a previous boyfriend. She never called me by name, or any term of endearment. She grilled me after I "liked" a Facebook photo of another woman. She'd get testy if I wanted to see a show by an attractive woman musician—which insulted me *and* the artist. It upset her when, in her presence, I googled a female musician. According to astrology.com, "Cancers tend to be extremely loving and passionate towards their lovers." Pam must have been the exception.

DJing represented our strongest bond. As do parents who stay married for their children's benefit, we did it primarily for musical reasons. Eventually one realizes that not even the most harmonious interests can sustain a happy relationship. Shared musical tastes can bring intense camaraderie, but one can't base a healthy union strictly on that. Six months after our split, when I had the audacity to date another woman, things *really* got ugly.

Following this last negative experience, I decided I *had* to eradicate Cancers from my romantic life. The three-strikes rule, right?

Wrong.

As if in a plot twist out of a middling rom-com flick, I met yet another Cancer woman last year, a health-care administrator whom I'm not even going to give a fake name, because we're still dating. We clicked instantly and profoundly. We've been dating eight conflict-free months. All the problems that had bedeviled previous Cancer relationships—moodiness, neediness, jealousy—haven't surfaced in this one. The curse seemingly is broken.

Maybe astrology truly is bullshit. But as an Aries-Taurus cusp motherfucker with Virgo rising and moon in Scorpio, I'm inclined to remain extremely ambivalent about it. ■

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One Smokes Weed, the Other Doesn't

Can this relationship last?

BY KATIE HERZOG

Before I met my girlfriend, I spent a fair amount of time trying to convince dates that there's nothing wrong with smoking a little weed now and then. I had moderate success with this (it's Seattle, not Fort Worth). But then I'd try to convince them that if smoking a little weed now and then was okay, smoking a lot of weed all the time was even better. This may be why I was largely single until my 30s.

The biggest complaint I got from girlfriends was that weed changed me. When I'd point out that it changed me for the better (and probably had less effect than a daily dose of Prozac), this was viewed as evidence that I cared more about weed than I did about the relationship. Which was true.

Luckily for me, I finally met a woman who loves to get high as much as I do. Which means that instead of fighting about how much money I spend on weed, we can fight about how much *we* spend on weed. But not everyone has been as blessed by the Tinder gods as I have.

"I think it's fair to say that me being a cannabis journalist has cost me a few dates," says Alex Halperin, cannabis advice columnist for the *Guardian* and the host of *WeedWeek*, a podcast about the weed business. But, he adds, it's probably gotten him a few dates, too.

As for whether or not mixed relationships can work, Halperin says it depends on the couple. A budtender might not be compatible with a weetotaler, but for people willing to compromise, it may be a nonissue. When I asked if he would date someone who was passionately opposed to cannabis, Halperin said, "Well, they probably wouldn't date me."

If a compromise can't be reached, there's always the option to lie. Marcus (not his real name) has been married for 14 years to a woman who hates that he smokes weed, so

he does it in secret. Thanks to the advent of vape pens and other products that make it possible to get stoned without reeking of old bong water, being discreet is easy in recreational weed markets like Seattle.

Unfortunately for Marcus, he lives in one of those conservative states in the middle of the country where weed is still prohibited. If there are vape pens in Oklahoma, he's never seen them. "I smoke a couple times throughout the evening," he told me. "I usually pop out to the garage for a quick bong rip and avoid close contact until the smell dissipates."

Marcus didn't ask for relationship advice, but I gave him some anyway: divorce. He seemed to think I was kidding, but when Marcus eventually comes to his senses, there are dating apps specifically for people who smoke. The one I downloaded, High There, only showed me users in Chicago for some reason, but there are old-school matchmaking services, too. Highly Devoted, a California-based service, actually screens and interviews clients. Instead of an algorithm doing the pairing, it's a human. They also help plan dates.

"A meal is always a good option for a first date," said Molly Peckler, the company's founder. "We suggest that our clients don't arrive high. We want to make sure they are aware and bright-eyed, but we do provide suggestions if you want to bring cannabis along."

Peckler said there's a growing market for this kind of service. "Even though cannabis is becoming legal in more and more states, it's not like you can go to a bar and find these people."

Perhaps this will change as cities and states open consumption lounges. But until then, you can always do what I did: Look for the tree emoji on Tinder. ■

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Free Will Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

January 30–February 5

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll be invited to make a pivotal transition in the history of your relationship with your most important life goals. It should be both fun and daunting! MARCH: Don't waste time and energy trying to coax others to haul away the junk and the clutter. Do it yourself. APRIL: The growing pains should feel pretty good. Enjoy the uncanny stretching sensations. MAY: It'll be a favorable phase to upgrade your personal finances. Think richer thoughts. Experiment with new ideas about money. JUNE: Build two strong bridges for every rickety bridge you burn. Create two vital connections for every stale connection you leave behind.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You have access to a semi-awkward magic that will serve you well if you don't complain about its semi-awkwardness. MARCH: To increase your clout and influence, your crucial first step is to formulate a strong intention to do just that. The universe will then work in your behalf. APRIL: Are you ready to clean messes and dispose of irrelevancies left over from the past? Yes! MAY: You can have almost anything you want if you resolve to use it for the greatest good. JUNE: Maintain rigorous standards, but don't be a fanatic. Strive for excellence without getting bogged down in a counterproductive quest for perfection.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Be alert for vivid glimpses of your best possible future. The power of self-fulfilling prophecy is even stronger than usual. MARCH: High integrity and ethical rigor are crucial to your success—and so is a longing for sacred adventure. APRIL: How can you make the best use of your likability? MAY: Cheerfully dismantle an old system or structure to make way for a sparkling new system or structure. JUNE: Beginner's luck will be yours if you choose the right place to begin. What's a bit intimidating but very exciting?

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Your sensual magnetism peaks at the same time as your spiritual clarity. MARCH: You want toasted ice? Succulent fire? Earthy marvels? Homey strangeness? All of that is within reach. APRIL: Sow the seeds of the most interesting success you can envision. Your fantasy of what's possible should thrill your imagination, not merely satisfy your sense of duty. MAY: Deadline time. Be as decisive and forthright as an Aries, as bold as a Sagittarius, as systematic as a Capricorn. JUNE: Go wading in the womb-temperature ocean of emotion, but be mindful of the undertow.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG 22): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: There's a general amnesty in all matters regarding your relationships. Cultivate truces and forgiveness. MARCH: Drop fixed ideas you might have about what's possible and what's not. Be keenly open to unexpected healings. APRIL: Wander out into the frontiers. Pluck goodies that have been off-limits. Consider the value of ignoring certain taboos. MAY: Sacrifice a small comfort so as to energize your ambitions. JUNE: Take a stand in behalf of your beautiful ideals and sacred truths.

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Master the Zen of constructive anger. Express your complaints in a holy cause. MARCH: You finally get a message you've been waiting to receive for a long time. Hallelujah! APRIL: Renew your most useful vows. Sign a better contract. Come to a more complete agreement. MAY: Don't let your preconceptions inhibit you from having a wildly good time. JUNE: Start your own club, band, organization, or business. Or reinvent and reinvigorate your current one.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Be open to romantic or erotic adventures that are different from how love has worked in the past. MARCH: You'll be offered interesting, productive problems. Welcome them! APRIL: Can you explore what's experimental and fraught with interesting uncertainty even as you stay well-grounded? Yes! MAY: You can increase your power by not hiding your weakness. People will trust you most if you show your vulnerability. A key to this season's model of success is the ability to calmly express profound emotion. JUNE: Wild cards and X-factors and loopholes will be more available than usual. Don't be shy about using them.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: The world may finally be ready to respond favorably to the power you've been storing up. MARCH: Everything you thought you knew about love and lust turns out to be too limited. So expand your expectations and capacities! APRIL: Extremism and obsession can be useful in moderation. MAY: Invisible means of support will become visible. Be alert for half-hidden help. JUNE: Good questions: What do other people find valuable about you? How can you enhance what's valuable about you?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll have the need and opportunity to accomplish some benevolent hocus-pocus. For best results, upgrade your magical powers. MARCH: Make sure the Turning Point happens in your power spot or on your home turf. APRIL: You should be willing to go anywhere, ask any question, and even risk your pride if necessary so as to coax your most important relationships into living up to their potentials. MAY: If at first you don't succeed, change the definition of success. JUNE: You can achieve more through negotiation and compromise than you could by pushing heedlessly ahead in service to your single-minded vision.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: A new phase of your education will begin when you acknowledge how much you have to learn. MARCH: Initiate diplomatic discussions about the Things That Never Get Talked About. APRIL: Revise your ideas about your dream home and your dream community. MAY: You have the power to find healing for your oldest lovesickness. If you do find it, intimacy will enter a new Golden Age. JUNE: Solicit an ally's ingenuity to help you improvise a partial solution to a complex problem.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: Start a new trend that will serve your noble goals for years to come. MARCH: Passion comes back into fashion with a tickle and a shiver and a whoosh. APRIL: As you expand and deepen your explorations, call on the metaphorical equivalents of both a telescope and a microscope. MAY: This is the beginning of the end of what you love to complain about. Hooray! JUNE: You'll have an abundance of good reasons to celebrate the fact that you are the least normal sign in the zodiac. Celebrate your idiosyncrasies!

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): Here are your fortune-cookie-style horoscopes for the next five months. FEBRUARY: You'll have a knack for enhancing the way you express yourself and present yourself. The inner you and the outer you will become more unified. MARCH: You'll discover two original new ways to get excited. APRIL: Be bold as you make yourself available for a deeper commitment that will spawn more freedom. MAY: What are the gaps in your education? Make plans to mitigate your most pressing area of ignorance. JUNE: Your body is ready to tell you secrets that your mind has not yet figured out. Listen well.

Homework: What's the kind of joy you're not getting enough of? How could you get more of it? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

February 6–12

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Climbing mountains became a popular adventure in the 19th century, but there are still many peaks around the world that no human has ever ascended. They include the 24,591-foot-high Muchu Chhish in Pakistan, 23,691-foot Karjiang South in Tibet, and 12,600-foot Saury Zhotasy on the border of China and Kazakhstan. If there are any Aries mountaineers reading this horoscope who have been dreaming about conquering an unclimbed peak, 2019 will be a great time to do it, and now would be a perfect moment to plan or launch your quest. As for the rest of you Aries, what's your personal equivalent of reaching the top of an unclimbed peak?

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Eminem's song "Lose Yourself" was a featured track in the movie *8 Mile*, and it won an Academy Award for best original song in 2003. The creator was not present at the Oscar ceremony to accept his award, however: He was so convinced his song would lose out to one of the other nominees that he stayed home. At the moment presenter Barbra Streisand announced Eminem's triumph, he was asleep in front of the TV with his daughter, who was watching cartoons. In contrast to him, I hope you will be fully available and on the scene for the recognition or acknowledgment that should be coming your way sometime soon.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): While enjoying its leisure time, the peregrine falcon glides around at 50 miles per hour. But when it's motivated by the desire to eat, it may swoop and dart at a velocity of 220 miles per hour. Amazing! In accordance with your astrological omens, Gemini, I propose that we make the peregrine falcon your inspiration for the next three weeks. I suspect you will have extraordinary speed and agility and focus whenever you're hunting for exactly what you want. So here's a crucial question: What exactly do you want?

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Now and then, the sun shines and rain falls at the same time. The meteorological name for the phenomenon is "sunshower," but folklore provides other terms. Hawaiians may call it "liquid sunshine" or "ghost rain." Speakers of the Tangkhul language in India imagine it as "the wedding of a human and spirit." Some Russians refer to it as "mushroom rain," since it's thought to encourage the growth of mushrooms. Whatever you might prefer to call it, Cancerian, I suspect that the foreseeable future will bring you delightful paradoxes in a similar vein. And in my opinion, that will be very lucky for you, since you'll be in the right mood to thrive amid just such situations.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG 22): A study by the Fidelity financial services company revealed that in 43 percent of all couples, neither partner has an accurate knowledge of how much money the other partner earns. Meanwhile, research by the National Institute of Health concludes that among heterosexual couples, 36 percent of husbands misperceive how frequently their wives have orgasms. I bring this to your attention in order to sharpen your focus on how crucial it is to communicate clearly with your closest allies. I mean, it's rarely a good idea to be ignorant about what's going on with those close to you, but it'll be an especially bad idea during the next six weeks.

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): Torre Mayor is one of the tallest skyscrapers in Mexico City. When workers finished its construction in 2003, it was one of the world's most earthquake-proof buildings, designed to hold steady during an 8.5-level temblor. Over the course of 2019, Virgo, I'd love to see you erect the metaphorical equivalent of that unshakable structure in your own life. The astrological omens suggest that doing so is quite possible. And the coming weeks will be an excellent time to launch or intensify your efforts in that regard.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): Multitalented Libran singer and actor Donald Glover uses the name Childish Gambino when he performs his music. How did he select that alias? He used an online random name generator created by the rap group Wu-Tang Clan. I tried the same generator and got "Fearless Warlock" as my new moniker. You might want to try it yourself, Libra. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to add layers to your identity and expand your persona and mutate your self-image. The generator is here: tinyurl.com/yournewname. (P.S.: If you don't like the first one you're offered, keep trying until you get one you like.)

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): Leonardo da Vinci's painting *Salvator Mundi* sold for \$450 million in 2017. Just 12 years earlier, an art collector bought it for \$10,000. Why did its value increase so extravagantly? Because in 2005, no one was sure it was an authentic da Vinci painting. It was damaged and had been covered with other layers of paint that hid the original image. After extensive efforts at restoration, the truth about it emerged. I foresee the possibility of a comparable, if less dramatic, development in your life during the next 10 months, Scorpio. Your work to rehabilitate or renovate an underestimated resource could bring big dividends.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): We can behold colors because of specialized cells in our eyes called cones. Most of us have three types of cones, but a few rare people have four types. This enables them to see far more hues than the rest of us. Are you a tetrachromat, a person with super-vision? (Whether you are or not, I suspect you will have extra powerful perceptual capacities in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you will be able to see more than you usually do. The world will seem brighter and deeper and more vivid. I urge you to use your temporary superpower to your advantage.)

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): There are two kinds of minor, boring little tasks. One is when you're attending to a detail that's not in service to a higher purpose; the other is when you're attending to a detail that is a crucial step in the process of fulfilling an important goal. An example of the first might be when you try in vain to scour a permanent stain on a part of the kitchen counter that no one ever sees. An example of the second is when you download an update for an existing piece of software so your computer works better and you can raise your efficiency levels as you pursue a pet project. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to keep this distinction in mind as you focus on the minor, boring tasks that are crucial steps in the process of eventually fulfilling an important goal.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Can you sit on your own head? Not many people can. It requires great flexibility. Before comedian Robin Williams was famous, he spontaneously did just that when he auditioned for the role of the extraterrestrial immigrant Mork, the hero of the TV sitcom *Mork & Mindy*. The casting director was impressed with Williams's odd but amusing gesture and hired him immediately. If you're presented with an opportunity sometime soon, I encourage you to be inspired by the comedian's ingenuity. What might you do to cinch your audition, to make a splashy first impression, to convince interested parties that you're the right person?

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): Twitter wit Notorious d.e.b. advises us, "Before you diagnose yourself with depression or low self-esteem, first make sure that you are not, in fact, just surrounded by assholes." That's wise counsel for you to keep in mind during the next three weeks. Let me add a few corollaries. First, stave off any temptation you might have to believe that others know what's good for you better than you do. Second, figure out what everyone thinks of you and aggressively liberate yourself from their opinions. Third, if anyone even hints at not giving you the respect you deserve, banish them for at least three weeks.

Homework: What is the best gift you could give your best ally right now? Testify at freewillastrology.com.



Savage Love

BY DAN SAVAGE

Omissions and Emissions

I'm a 21-year-old woman, and I have an IUD. I've had sex with quite a few men, and one thing seems to be almost constant among them: trying to fuck without condoms. Many of the men I've been with seem to be perfectly fine and terribly eager to have sex without condoms. This has always angered me. They generally assume or make sure I'm on birth control, which they immediately take to mean condom-free sex is welcome. I don't want to have sex without condoms without being in a committed relationship. I know people cheat and monogamy doesn't mean STIs won't happen, but it's a risk I'm comfortable with. I'm so annoyed by how often men try to get out of using condoms (it's often persistent, even with people I've been seeing a while) that I want to start lying and say I'm not on birth control. The risk of a baby seems to be the only STI most men are concerned with. Is it all right for me to lie and say I'm not on any birth control and explain why I lied later on if things get serious?

I'm Understandably Distressed

Let's get this out of the way first: You're right, IUD, sexually transmitted infections (STI) do happen to people in monogamous relationships. People cheat, people lie, people contract, people transmit. A 2015 study found that people in consensually nonmonogamous (CNM) relationships were no more likely to contract an STI than people in monogamous relationships. The reason? If a person in a monogamous relationship screws around and doesn't use a condom, they can't ask their partner to start using condoms again without drawing attention to their infidelity. If someone in a CNM relationship asks their primary partner to start using condoms again—because a condom broke or fell off or didn't wind up on a cock for some other reason—they're drawing attention to their fidelity. Moving on...

Right again, IUD: Babies do seem to be the only STI many men are worried about. Australian researchers conducted a large study about stealthing—the deeply shitty, rape-adjacent practice of surreptitiously removing the condom during intercourse—and they were shocked to discover how common this deeply shitty practice seems to be.

"The researchers estimated in advance that approximately 2% of the sample would report having been stealthed," sex researcher Justin Lehmiller wrote in a blog post looking at the results of the study. "In fact, 32% of the women and 19% of the men surveyed reported having experienced stealthing... A majority of both groups reported discussing the event with their partner afterward, and most also reported feeling emotionally stressed about it. A majority also considered stealthing to be a form of sexual assault. These results suggest

that stealthing is not a rare occurrence and we would do well to study it further."

The researchers didn't ask heterosexual men about being stealthed and, as Lehmiller points out, there are some scattered reports out there about women poking holes in condoms before sex or retrieving them after sex. We don't need a study to tease out the motives of these women—they want to have a child and don't care whether their partners do (and that is *not okay*)—but we could use a study that asked heterosexual men about their motives for stealthing. One question we should put to these assholes: Are they more likely to "go stealth," i.e., to sexually assault a woman, if they know her to be on some other form of birth control? Or are they just so wrapped up in their own momentary sexual pleasure that they don't give a shit about babies or any of the other STIs?



JOE NEWTON

Moving on to your actual question...

Can you lie? Of course you can. *Should* you lie? In the case of a casual sex partner who might not have your best interests at heart, i.e., some total rando you want to fuck but aren't sure you can trust, I think you can lie and should lie. This lie doesn't do him any harm; it's not like you're telling him you're on birth control when you're not. And if telling this lie inspires some rando to be more careful about keeping the condom on (sometimes condoms fall off by accident), then it's a lie that made the sex safer for you and for him.

And if you get serious about someone you initially lied to about having an IUD—if some dude makes the transition from hot rando to hot boyfriend—and he reacts badly when you tell him the truth, just say (or text) this to him: "I could have waited to fuck you until I was sure you were a good guy. But then you would have missed out on all the awesome sex we've had up to now. Would that have been better? And by coming clean now, I'm basically saying that I think you're a good guy that I can trust. I know that *now*, but I didn't always know it because I'm not psychic. Now, do you want to raw-dog me or do you want to complain?"

My girlfriend opposes sex work because she believes it oppresses women. Early in our relationship, she demanded to know if I had ever paid for sex, because she couldn't be with me if I had. And I told her the truth: "No, never." She didn't ask if I'd ever been paid for sex. (One guy, he blew me, no women were oppressed because no women were involved, it happened twice.) Do I need to tell her?

Two-Time Gay For Pay

Nope.

My partner is too embarrassed to raise this question with his doctor: Is it safe for me to drink my partner's urine? He's HIV-positive, but his viral load is undetectable. I know that other STIs could potentially be passed on to the watersports receiver through urine. My partner has been tested for everything and has no other STIs. He is worried that his urine could contain enough of his antiretroviral drugs (Tivicay and Descovy) to do me harm. He is particularly worried that I might suffer from the side effects of those drugs. I am not currently on any medications. I believe that his fear stems from when he was on chemo drugs for something else. Nurses treating him then advised me not to use his hospital bathroom so that I would not possibly be exposed to any chemo-drug residue. I know that you're not a doctor—but could you ask a doctor for us?

Ingesting Medicines

"This one is easy," said Dr. Peter Shalit, a physician who has been treating people with HIV/AIDS for 30 years. "Tivicay and Descovy are very benign medicines with very little potential toxicity in standard doses. If one were to drink the urine of someone taking these medicines, there would be essentially no Tivicay, as this medicine is excreted by the liver, not the kidneys. The remnants of the drug are excreted in the feces, so to get significant exposure to secondhand Tivicay, you'd have to eat... well, never mind."

As for Descovy—that's actually two medicines in one. First, the bad news: Emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide, the meds in Descovy, are excreted in the urine. And the good news: "The amount of Descovy that would be in one liter of urine is less than a single pill's worth," said Dr. Shalit, who is also a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine. "Since these medicines are intrinsically very safe to begin with, in my opinion the health risk from exposure to the small amounts that may be found in urine is negligible. Don't worry about it." ■

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Andrew Gurza on dating with disabilities:
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THINGS TO DO

JAN 31
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FEB 13



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THE BIG & THE OBVIOUS

Step Forward

It's okay to be sad about the death of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and excited about its underground replacement, the SR 99 tunnel, at the same time. In fact, there's a whole festival for people who feel that way—it's called **Step Forward**, and a bunch of local organizations (WSDOT, King County, the City of Seattle, and the Port of Seattle) are putting it on February 2–3. The weekend will include a bike ride on the car-free viaduct and through the new tunnel, the **Tunnel to Viaduct 8K Run/Walk**, tours of the new digs (pun intended), an arts festival, a ribbon cutting, and live music.

Lunar New Year

China, Japan, Vietnam, and other Asian countries have their own ways of observing the Lunar New Year (Tues Feb 5), but each set of traditions is bound by food, loved ones, and hopes of good fortune. In Seattle, there are several weeks of celebrations to ring in the Year of the Pig. This fortnight brings lion and dragon dances to the Chinatown-International District's **Lunar New Year Celebration** in Hing Hay Park (Sat Feb 9), martial-arts demos to the Seattle Art Museum's **Lunar New Year Family Festival** (Sat Feb 2), Hawaiian holiday customs to the Tacoma Dome's **Asia Pacific New Year** (Sat Feb 9), Chinese pastries and tea to Floating Leaves Teahouse's **Year of the Pig Celebration** (Sat Feb 2), and Chinese beer tastings to **Lucky Envelope Brewing** (Feb 1–2).

Black History Month

You don't need to track down your high-school history textbook to know that the diverse heritage, cultures, and accomplishments of the black diaspora community have been largely left out of most US classrooms. That's why February, which is Black History Month, brings events like a reading with **Aaron Dixon**—the founder of the Black Panther Party Seattle Chapter—to the Northwest African American Museum (Thurs Jan 31), a gallery exhibit of paintings by black surrealist artist **Kenneth Moore** to Frederick Holmes and Company (Feb 7–March 9), a night of live performances and talks to MoPOP for **Through the Eyes of Art** (Fri Feb 1), an evening of African art and music to the Seattle Art Museum for **Kijiji Night** (Thurs Feb 7), and Roger Guenveur Smith's new solo theater show **Frederick Douglass Now** to the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (Feb 8–10).

Solidarity Centennial

For five days in February of 1919, more than 65,000 Seattle workers went on strike to demand better working conditions and higher wages. This year, you can honor the historic event (and labor movements of the present) at UW Allen Library's **Seattle General Strike Era & Centralia Tragedy of 1919** exhibit (Feb 4–June 7), which will also include primary sources and artifacts from Seattle's Armistice Day massacre that took place on November 11 of the same year. Other commemorative

events include the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association's **Seattle General Strike Bus Tour** of important sites from the strike (Sat Feb 9), a reading from author **James Gregory** from Robert L. Friedheim's book on the subject (Mon Feb 4 at the University Book Store), and the Labor Archives of Washington's **Solidarity City** panel discussion (Sat Feb 9 at Seattle Labor Temple). Plus, head to MOHAI for a **Labor Will Feed the People** performance (Wed Feb 6) and documentary film screenings of **Labor Wars of the Northwest** (Sat Feb 2) and **Witness to Revolution: The Story of Anna Louise Strong** (Thurs Feb 7), about a journalist who covered both the strike and the massacre.

Super Bowl LIII

The Seahawks may not be playing in the 53rd Super Bowl (Sun Feb 3)—you'll have to root for the New England Patriots or the Los Angeles Rams—but why pass up an opportunity to drink copious amounts of beer, eat a lot of chips, watch decent commercials, and check out Maroon 5, Travis Scott, and Big Boi at halftime? There are lots of viewing parties happening in Seattle, including at **Clock-Out Lounge** (Beacon Hill), **Neumos** (Capitol Hill), **Ounces** (West Seattle), and **Floating Bridge Brewing** (University District). For something a little different, head to the **Royal Room** (Columbia City) to see Christian Pincock perform a live improvised score to accompany the game, or visit with adoptable pets from Motley Zoo Animal Rescue during

a pregame **Puppy Bowl** party at Chop Suey (Capitol Hill). Less than thrilled with this year's teams? Publicize your feelings via on-screen texts at Central Cinema's **Hecklevision: The Big Game** (Central District).

Valentine's Day

Love, lust, friendship, and the sweet perfume of drugstore chocolates are in the air. As you know from the rest of this issue, Valentine's Day is upon us! See page 27 to find ways to ways to celebrate in Seattle, from burlesque performances to concerts—or see up-to-the-minute listings at strangerthingstodo.com.

Short List

'90s Bar Crawl

Trinity, Sat Feb 9, 3–10 pm, \$30/\$40

The Big Plunge

Alki Beach, Sat Feb 9, 10 am–3 pm, \$25

KEXP Presents International Clash Day

Washington Hall, Thurs Feb 7, 7–10 pm, \$10/\$12

Seattle CannaCon

Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Jan 31–Feb 2, \$70–\$420

Seattle Museum Month

Various locations, Feb 1–28

Early Warnings

MAGNUSON WINTER NIGHT MARKET Magnuson Park Hangar 30, Sat Feb 16, 3–10 pm, \$3

NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Feb 20–24, \$12–\$75



VALTESSE PRESENTS

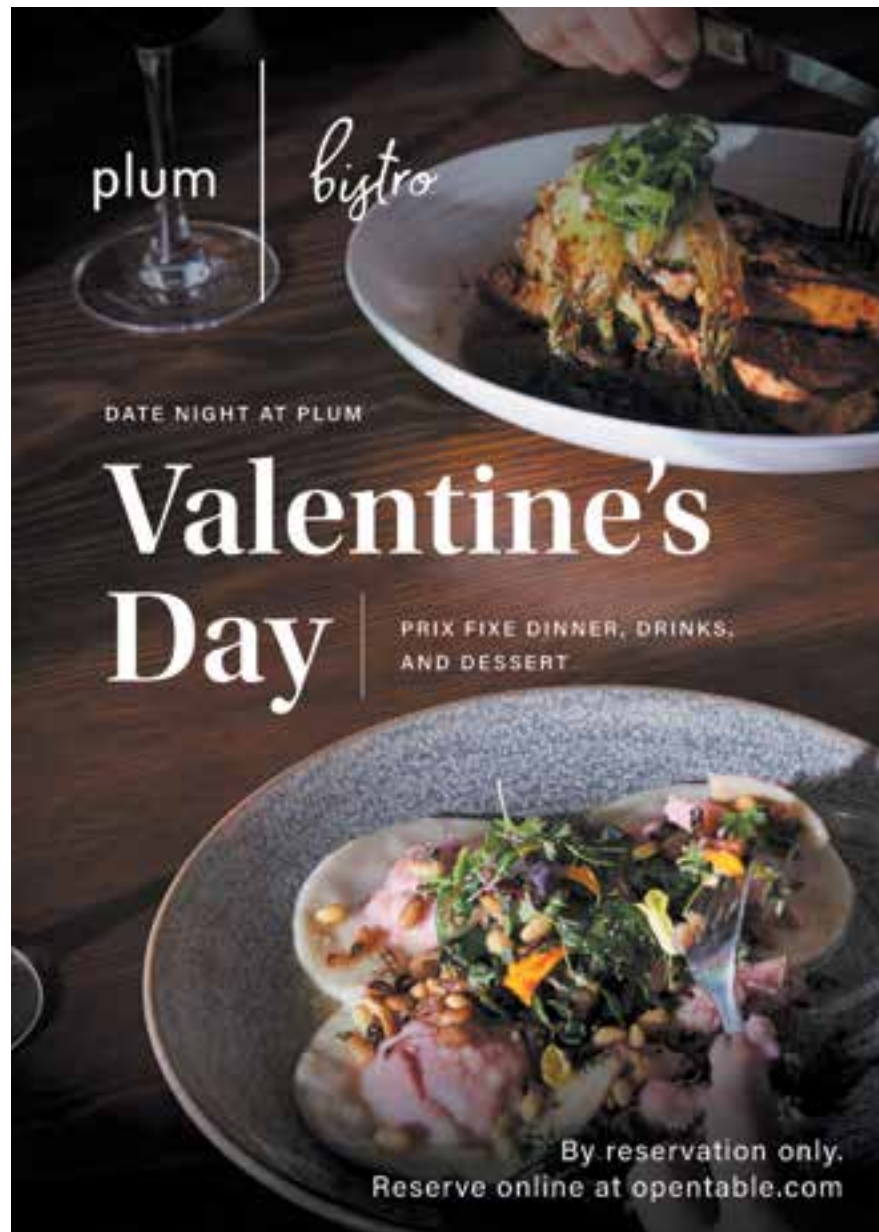
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THINGS DO → Valentine's Day

Top Picks

FEB 8-14

The Atomic Bombshells in 'J'ADORE! A Burlesque Valentine'

The boisterous Atomic Bombshells troupe has been instrumental in Seattle's burlesque revival. And for lovers of feathery, busty, glitzy fun, there's no better spectacle to attend for V-Day. Special guests Cheronna Shinatra and local dance collective Purple Lemonade will help founder Kitten LaRue and company celebrate the showgirls' 11th anniversary. Plus, all the performances before 10 pm are open to those age 17 and up, so *J'ADORE* is perfect for those of you too young to drink, too. (*Triple Door*, \$28-\$45.)

THURS FEB 14

After Hours at the Aquarium: No-Pressure Valentine's Day

How familiar are you with the cloning practices of sea anemones? What about the mating rituals of octopuses or sea stars? At this "no-pressure" Valentine's Day affair, you and your date (or you and your friends) will be presented with boozy beverages, a live DJ, and all the information you've ever wanted to know about the courtship behaviors of local marine residents. (*Seattle Aquarium*, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$25.)



EAT-A-BUG COOKBOOK

A Valentine's Day Insect Feast

For a decidedly unconventional Valentine's Day beyond the played-out lavish dinner and bouquet of roses, look no further than Atlas Obscura's entomological dinner at beloved dive Darrell's Tavern, where local "insect evangelist" David George Gordon (who is also known as the "Bug Chef" and has authored *The Eat-A-Bug Cookbook*) will prepare a feast using insects such as waxworms, grasshoppers, and crickets. Belly up to the bar for some insect-based cocktails before witnessing a cooking demonstration from Gordon and clips from Ian Toew's documentary *Bugs on the Menu*. (*Darrell's Tavern*, *Shoreline*, 7-9 pm, \$39.)

Valentine's Day with Bilal and Parisalexa

Though known best for his award-winning collaborations with Kendrick Lamar, Robert Glasper, and Erykah Badu, singer, songwriter, producer, and musician Bilal is at his strongest solo. His blend of psychedelic soul, R&B, funk, and jazz provides an

eclectic sonic caress and evokes heavy hitters like Prince and Curtis Mayfield. Bilal will be joined in his crooning by stellar local songstress Parisalexa, who will be playing tracks from her critically acclaimed EPs *Bloom* and *Flexa*, and whose confident lyrics and woozy 1990s R&B vibe will certainly lend themselves to the holiday theme. (*Nectar*, 8 pm, \$20-\$50.)

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

FOOD & DRINK

Adana Valentine's Day

Adana, Thurs Feb 14, 5:30-8:30 pm, \$100

addo:INaNiS

Addo, Thurs Feb 14, 6 pm, 8:30 pm, \$240

Bru Love

Serious Pie, Thurs Feb 14, 6:30 pm, \$75

RN74 Valentine's Day

RN74, Thurs Feb 14, \$90

Super Six Valentine's Day

Super Six, Thurs Feb 14, 11 am-10 pm

Sushi Kappo Tamura Valentine's Day

Sushi Kappo Tamura, Thurs Feb 14, \$130

Tarsan i Jane Valentine's Day

Tarsan i Jane, Thurs Feb 14, 5:30 pm, \$185

MUSIC

Air Supply

Emerald Queen Casino, Thurs Feb 14, 8 pm, \$30-\$70

Be My Baby: Valentine's Duet Show

Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Thurs Feb 14, 7:30-10 pm, \$15-\$45

Dancing on My Own

Barboza, Thurs Feb 14, 10 pm, \$5

The Delfonics with Greg Hill

Jazz Alley, Feb 12-13, 7:30 pm, \$37

Emo Night LA: Emo Nite Seattle

Chop Suey, Thurs Feb 14, 9 pm, \$15

Gail Pettis Quintet

Tula's, Thurs Feb 14, 7:30 pm, \$45

Greenhouse Gigs

Volunteer Park Conservatory, Thurs Feb 14, 7-10 pm, \$50

Jennifer Kienzle

Vito's Restaurant & Lounge, Thurs Feb 14, 9 pm

Lavender Country

Couth Buzzard, Fri Feb 15, 7:30-9:45 pm, \$10 donation

Lemolo, OK Sweetheart, Sophia Duccini

Neumos, Thurs Feb 14, 7 pm, \$13

A Love Supreme with The John Hanrahan Quartet

The Royal Room, Sat Feb 16, 5 pm, \$15

Mindi Abair and the Boneshakers

Jazz Alley, Thurs Feb 14, 7:30 pm, 9:30 pm, \$52

Scarlet Parke & Whitney Mongé

Hard Rock Cafe, Thurs Feb 14, 7 pm, \$25

The Social Queer's Womxn's Galantine Dance Party!

Fred Wildlife Refuge, Sat Feb 16, 9 pm-1 am, \$10

COMEDY

The Blue Show: Adults-Only Improv Comedy

Atlas Theatre, Sat Feb 2, Fri Feb 15, 10 pm, \$16

Comedy of Love: A Valentine's Day Improv

Unexpected Productions, Thurs Feb 14, 8:30 pm, \$18-\$20

Jen Kirkman

Neptune Theatre, Thurs Feb 14, 8 pm, \$29/\$34

Tender Loving Queers

18th & Union, Feb 7-10, \$10-\$25

PERFORMANCE

Bonbon

Can Can, Wed-Sun, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$40-\$100, through April 21

Gold Dust Women: Drag Does Fleetwood Mac

Kremwerk, Thurs Feb 14, 8 pm, \$9/\$13

La Chambre de Valtesse XXX

The Ruins, Feb 1-23, Fri-Sat, 7:30 pm, 10 pm, \$75/\$100

Stripped Screw Burlesque presents: Hard Love: Valentine's Day

Columbia City Theater, Feb 14-16, \$28-\$180

Twisted Cabaret Presents: My Twisted Valentine

Hale's Palladium, Feb 1-24, Fri-Sun, \$20-\$200

Unorthodox Live: Featuring Dan Savage

Stroum Jewish Community Center, Sat Feb 2, 8 pm, \$30-\$55

FILM

Dick and Jane Drop Acid and Die

Grand Illusion, Thurs Feb 14, 9 pm, \$2

Dirty Dancing

Varsity Theatre, Wed Feb 13, 7 pm, \$13

SPORTS & RECREATION

My Better Half Marathon

Seward Park, Sun Feb 10, 8 am, \$54-\$85

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Porcelain's Deadly Secrets

An artist's "intervention" at SAM highlights a history hiding behind beautiful objects.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

Porcelain can be hard to engage with. It's inert, functional, cold. That's why English artist Claire Partington's site-specific "intervention" in the Porcelain Room at Seattle Art Museum, titled *Taking Tea*, is so thrilling.

Her installation tells the violent and fraught history behind these shiny, valuable objects that drastically shaped British culture, fashion, and economics. Porcelain use in England was "fueled by this craze for tea," Partington explains, and the wares would have to endure long and dangerous sea voyages from China—trips that many sailors died on, whether because of storms or enemy ships.

This precariousness only made porcelain more highly prized, and expensive. In *Taking Tea*, Partington is riffing off of figures in 17th-century paintings who use porcelain as a way of showing off their immense wealth. The installation is composed of six porcelain figures all "taking tea" in the middle of the room on a golden table. Each figure is meant to represent a stage of the introduction of porcelain to Europe, from red stoneware that came with the first ships of tea to expensive and decorative Wanli porcelain.

There's a slave boy, a gentleman and a lady, a maid, and two drowned sailors. "I wanted to

get a tea table and have these people embody the tea set," Partington says, by way of explaining why the maid's hand is on her waist, her hand wanly held in the air like the teapot from the children's rhyme.

Likewise, the lady in her decadent dress (look closely and you'll see modern luxury brand symbols hidden in the striped pattern) holds her pinky finger upright, the epitome of refinement. And the gentleman clumsily holds the teapot in the wrong way.

But the most interesting figures on the table are the sailors whose skin is painted the color of water-bloated flesh. One lies facedown in front of the tea-takers, dead. On his back: a depiction of a giant kraken destroying a ship. Behind the standing figures is the other sailor, seemingly trying to scramble up onto the table, with a verse from Lord Byron's poem "Don Juan" inscribed on his back. These two men are representative of the human toll of the porcelain frenzy.

The opulent scene on the table is contrasted by the thousand or so pieces of porcelain from Europe and Asia in SAM's collection. It's also contrasted by another element Partington brought into the room: porcelain wares that did not make it to their destination, found in shipwrecks across the world. (Partington sourced most of them on eBay.) These can be found in a drawer of the table and in a niche opposite from the



NATALI WISEMAN

Each of the six figures represents a stage of porcelain's introduction to Europe.

table. Some of these pieces of porcelain are covered in crustaceans. The artist points out: "If you get up really close to them, you can still smell the sea."

This installation will be up for two years. SAM and guest curator Erika Dalya Massagui plan to continue to activate the space in different ways, bringing in period-appropriate scents (incense, tea, ocean smells, the odor of

firing earthenware) and music (17th and 18th century) to make the experience immersive.

Porcelain "is way more robust than you initially think it is," the artist said the other day at the museum. "You can drop it and it bounces." That elicited nervous laughter from the staff. But Partington's genuine appreciation for the material is clear. *Taking Tea* activates the space in a way never done before. ■

Top Picks

THURS FEB 7

Andrea Fraser: 'Critical Issues in Contemporary Art Practice'

My freshman year of college, I saw Andrea Fraser speak in the drabest of conference auditoriums. But it really changed my life in terms of how I look at art and the type of art I want to see and experience. Fraser is most known for her work in the area of institutional critique, an artistic practice that's meant to critique the institutions involved in the sale, display, politics, and economics of art. There's a sophistication, intelligence, and humor to her body of work that remains unparalleled. The way her brain wraps around an idea and how she chooses to express that thought is always interesting to see come together. (Henry Art Gallery, 7 pm, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

FEB 7-26

'Ultra Light Beams'

Not only is Anthony White a super talented artist, but he has a sharp curatorial eye. The Seattle-based White is the second curator-in-residence in Mount Analogue's Space Residency program, bringing his While Supplies Last reoccurring group art series to

the Pioneer Square gallery. *Ultra Light Beams* (a Kanye reference for those of you who completely blocked 2016 from your memory) will feature pieces by 12 artists from around the globe, "highlighting their vibrant palettes and digital gestures made by hand that mimic technological and algorithmic systems." It'll be post-analog as fuck. (Mount Analogue, Thurs-Sun, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

FEB 7-28

Jite Agbro: 'Armor'

Jite Agbro is concerned with what you're wearing. Well, okay, maybe not exactly with what you're wearing right now, but more with how what we wear and how we wear it is an expression of our "projected narratives and our authentic selves." Pretty heady stuff, huh? In *Armor*, the Seattle-based Nigerian American artist will be presenting her latest series of large-scale mixed-media works that investigate class distinctions and markers of status, drawing inspiration from the human body and what that body can wear. Show up in your Sunday best. (Gallery 4Culture, Mon-Fri, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

FEB 7-MARCH 17

Dori Hana Scherer

Seattle-based artist Dori Hana Scherer's artistic range is broad, with her work encompassing

things from nostalgic signage to bright objects made of thermoformed plastic. At this solo Glass Box Gallery show, Scherer will be debuting text-based works that draw inspiration from the aesthetics of early conceptual art, 1980s feminist art, and Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy of language. (Glass Box Gallery, Thurs-Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SAT FEB 23

Anna Mlasowsky: 'Noon'

At the beginning of January, glass artist Anna Mlasowsky began her residency-style solo exhibition that involves making crystals and inviting the public to help her in creating her beautiful glass objects. And in February, the German artist will be installing the fruits of her labor in the gallery. Taking the title of the show, *Noon* (the middle ground between night and day), as a jumping-off point, and also using natural materials like glass, water, and salt, Mlasowsky "probes into the opposites in hope to discover balance." She is the first artist in the gallery's women-focused 2019 season. (Center on Contemporary Art, Thurs-Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MORE

StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

MUSEUMS

Martha Friedman: Castoffs
Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through Feb 10

Quenton Baker: Ballast
Frye Art Museum, Tues-Sun, free, through Feb 3

Seattle General Strike Era & Centralia Tragedy of 1919
UW Allen Library, Feb 4-June 7, daily, free

GALLERIES

The Digital Final Frontier Group Show
Vermillion, Tues-Sat, free, through Feb 9

Escapism from LA
SOIL, Thurs-Sun, free, through Feb 2

Indigenous Teen Art Show
Vera Project, Feb 3-28, Tues-Sat, free

Karey Kessler: Between Place and Thought
Shift, Feb 7-March 2, Fri-Sat, free

Sarah Norsworthy: Green Fuse
studio e, Thurs-Sat, free, through Feb 9

Sylvia Tur, Nicholas Nyland
Linda Hodges Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through Feb 2

ART EVENTS

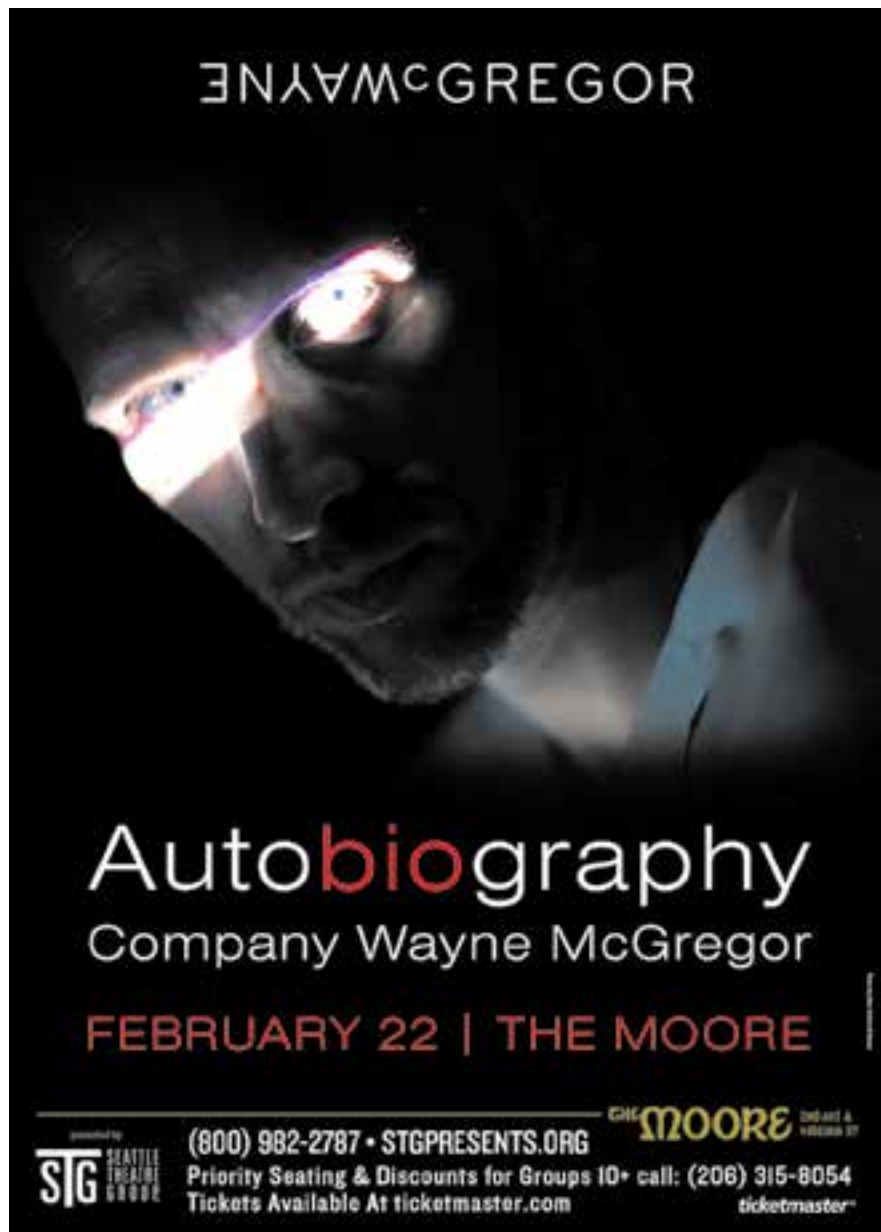
F* Fest #3**
Studio Current, Sat Feb 9, 2 pm-2 am, \$15/\$25

BOOK/ZINE RELEASE

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Degenerate Art Ensemble gets personal for the first time.

BY RICH SMITH

Skeleton flowers bloom in the wooded mountains of northern Japan. When you see them in the sun, the plant looks unremarkable. A little clump of six-petaled flowers with yellow centers. But when it rains, the flower petals become completely transparent. They look like glass.

DEGENERATE ART ENSEMBLE: SKELETON FLOWER
Erickson Theater
Feb 13-16

“To me, that’s the whole metaphor of the show,” said Degenerate Art Ensemble cofounder Haruko Crow Nishimura, discussing *Skeleton Flower*, a multidisciplinary performance about a woman using her substantial creative powers to transform her trauma into something beautiful. The piece premieres February 13 to 16 at the Erickson Theater.

Earlier this month, I visited Nishimura and DAE’s other cofounder, Joshua Kohl, at their house on a hill in Fremont. The place has become more or less a storage facility for current and future projects, which makes for dreamy decor. Neon-colored canvases line the wall. A tall throne entirely covered in faux fur stands near the stairs.

DAE has been conjuring up spectacular contemporary fairy tales for the stage, the screen, and weirdo festival campgrounds since 1999. The fantastical worlds originate in Nishimura’s brain. She animates them with dance, and Kohl helps shape them and set them to music. Both performers draw their aesthetics from all over, but common themes include Japanese monster cinema, comic books, fairy tales, and protest.

Over tea and vegan macaroons, Nishimura and Kohl told me they began work on *Skeleton Flower* about two years ago. They’re planning to

use all the storytelling devices they’re known for, but this time it will be just the two of them onstage. And this time, it’s personal.

After a few years of therapy, wherein she was able to open up for the first time about her violent upbringing and experiences of sexual assault, Nishimura decided to explore her own life with this show. “It’s time. I’m 48 now,” she said. “I’ve been an avatar of other characters in these new contemporary fairy tales that we’ve been creating in the past, but now it’s time for my own story.”

This new project has many tentacles (there’s a full album in the works), but the performance aspect reimagines several fairy tales—including “Fitcher’s Bird,” “The Wild Swans,” and “The Red Shoes”—and incorporates characters from previous DAE shows. All the protagonists are women who put their creative desires to action and overcome great opposition.

As they worked on *Skeleton Flower*, Kohl and Nishimura began to see the piece as a way of understanding recurring characters and themes in the group’s previous efforts. There are always strong female characters fighting back against demons, monsters, and menacing male figures. There’s a Mothra character that recalls Nishimura’s mother. A very early DAE show featured a guy walking around the stage and harassing women with a giant dildo. “Why do these things always show up in my work? Oh, because I have to confront my demons,” Nishimura said, laughing.

“The truth is that everyone suffers. My story isn’t new. Our hope for the piece is to say it’s okay to voice and share your shame. Shame becomes a power once you share it.”

Kohl said, “And it’s a wonderful thing to be exploring something like depression in such a celebratory and wild and colorful and defiant way.

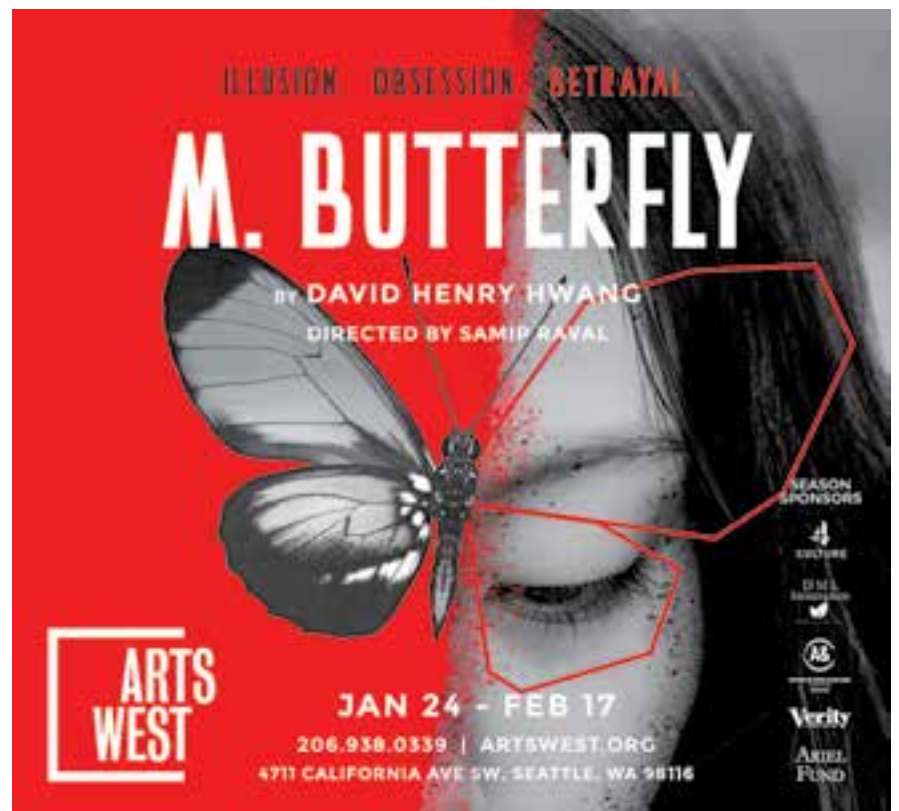
As opposed to it being something that’s like—depressing.” ■



RICH SMITH

“This city is cursed to have Rich writing about its arts.”

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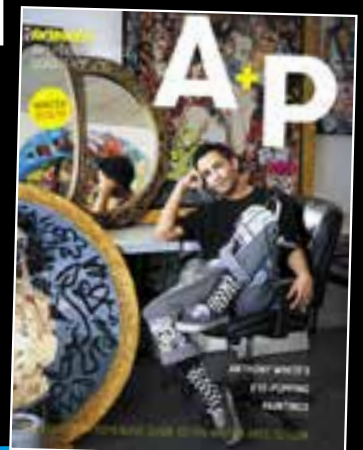
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THINGS TO DO → Performance

Top Picks

JAN 30–FEB 17

‘Uncle Vanya’

For the last eight years, the Seagull Project has been working with ACTLab to stage all four of Anton Chekhov’s major canonical works. The production of *Uncle Vanya* is the fourth and final installment, marking the end of a long and theatrically fruitful partnership. This is a big deal, and a real turning point for the group, and nobody is sure what they’ll do next. But I’m real excited about their take on this hyper-melancholic doozy from the great Russian realist about unrequited love, adultery, boredom, and despair. (If you’ve been tuning in for the last several years, you’ll know those are all common themes.) This show has three of my favorite actors in town—Alexandra Tavares, Peter Crook, and Kevin Lin—so there’s no way it’s not going to be good. (ACT Theatre, \$27–\$52.) **RICH SMITH**

THURS FEB 7

Kelsey Cook

A Spokane-born millennial who, to borrow a phrase from Todd Barry, exudes medium energy, Kelsey Cook cracks wise in a manner that will shatter your biases about her sorority-girl appearance, which she sometimes acknowledges and pokes fun at during her sets. Cook also gets a lot of comedic mileage out of her parents’ exceptional foosball abilities, which they passed on to their daughter. Also, her bit about consuming weed for the first time is ROFL-worthy; she tried to come down from licking a way-too-strong pot lollipop by eating sushi, but freaked because she felt like she “could taste the fish’s childhood.” (Parlor Live Comedy Club, Bellevue, 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25.) **DAVE SEGAL**

FEB 7–17

‘140 LBS’

Local theater powerhouse Sara Porkalob will direct the world premiere of Susan Lieu’s autobiographical solo show *140 LBS*. When Lieu was young, her mom died two hours into a tummy tuck operation. The surgeon was charged with medical negligence, and her family struggled to move on from the loss. Decades later, Lieu decided to confront her mother’s killer, as well her mother’s and her own relationship with the “impossible ideal of Vietnamese feminine beauty.” Porkalob is known for her ability to faithfully render a handful of wildly different characters in her solo shows, so look for her to draw out a similar talent in Lieu. (Theatre Off Jackson, Thurs–Mon, \$25.) **RICH SMITH**

Early Warnings

MAZ JOBRANI: THE STILL TOURING TOUR Neptune Theatre, Sun Feb 17, 8 pm, \$38–\$99

FRED ARMISEN: COMEDY FOR MUSICIANS BUT EVERYONE IS WELCOME The Showbox, Mon Feb 18, 8:30 pm, \$35/\$40

THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS Seattle Opera at McCaw Hall, Feb 23–March 9, \$25–\$335

FEB 8–10

Roger Guenveur Smith: ‘Frederick Douglass Now’

Roger Guenveur Smith blew the top off my fucking skull when he came through Seattle a few years ago with his *Rodney King* solo show. Smith is an incomparably good character actor with an incred-



JUSTIN ZSEBE

ible command of language and a jazz-infused story-telling technique I haven’t seen from anyone else. *The Stranger’s* Sean Nelson called it “a master class in wringing glorious art from life’s tragic dimension,” a sentiment I agree with

completely. Now Smith is coming through with *Frederick Douglass Now*, a solo show about the self-liberated abolitionist who is “getting recognized more and more,” the president notices. Somehow, tickets for *Rodney King* didn’t sell out back in 2016. Don’t make that mistake again this time, Seattle. (Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, \$25.) **RICH SMITH**

FEB 14–MARCH 10

‘American Junkie’

In his book *American Junkie*, Seattle memoirist Tom Hansen presented his no-bullshit, matter-of-fact account of heroin addiction, self-destruction, and eventual recovery in the 1990s. According to Book-It Theatre, Jane Jones and Kevin McKeon’s adaptation of his story for the stage will be “a tight, 90-minute ride through Seattle’s music scene during the grunge era.” No doubt Hansen’s story will also resonate with people living through the current ravages of the opioid crisis. (Center Theatre, Wed–Sun, \$20–\$50.) **RICH SMITH**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Alien/Angel

Cafe Nordo, Feb 8–24, \$59/\$79

The Bridge Project

Velocity Dance Center, Jan 31–Feb 3, 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25

Dana Gould

Triple Door, Fri Feb 1, 7 pm, \$25

Everybody

12th Avenue Arts, Mon and Thurs–Sat, 7:30 pm, \$10–\$36, through Feb 16

Outstanding: Queer Comic Competition

Timbre Room, Tues Feb 12, 7:30 pm, \$10

reSET: Kaitlin McCarthy and Cameo Lethem

12th Avenue Arts, Feb 7–9, \$12

Roy Wood Jr.

Parlor Live Comedy Club Bellevue, Feb 8–9, 7:30 pm, 10 pm, \$25/\$30

The Sleeping Beauty

McCaw Hall, Feb 1–10, \$37–\$189

Unorthodox Live:

Featuring Dan Savage Stroum Jewish Community Center, Sat Feb 2, 8 pm, \$30–\$55

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What's Wrong with Lake City?

Novelist Thomas Kohnstamm satirizes a local fictional loser.

BY RICH SMITH

If you're from someplace like "Lake Shitty," a North Seattle neighborhood most known for its used car dealerships and shadily managed strip clubs, everything in the culture will tell you that life is elsewhere. But if you do end up escaping to get "good" education, you hourly fight feelings of fraudulence while trying to live in a world designed

for and by blue bloods who never worked for anything. Succeeding in that world if you're not from it is exceedingly difficult and morally fucked and probably impossible, but going back to your roots would count as a failure. Or would it?

These are *some* of the dynamics at play in *Lake City*, a new novel from Seattle writer Thomas Kohnstamm. The class anxiety is embodied in the novel's semi-antihero, Lane, who is, above all else, a coward. After his wife cheats on him, he "temporarily" drops out of his humanities PhD program at Columbia University and—blaming his woes on 9/11 instead of his failed relationship—moves back home to Lake City, where he tries to hatch a plan to win his wife back.

In the beginning of the novel, that plan involves drinking a lot and treating his mother badly. It ends up involving a scheme with rich lesbian foster parents from California who



LESTER BLACK

The author, smoking a joint in his native habitat.

essentially try to legally steal a kid from his mother, a Native American woman named Inez who lives in a trailer park with her mom.

Kohnstamm attempts to use his gifts of description and characterization—which are considerable—to render the breakrooms, beer fridges, trailer parks, and working-class

people of his hometown. The idea is to find the *soul* of Lake City, the thing that makes it particular, unique, *worthy*. This effort is moderately successful.

There's a fine line between an accurate portrayal of the employee coat rack at the Fred Meyer and poverty porn. The narrator

crosses that line a lot, most egregiously when he describes Lake City as "the mistress that grown-up Seattle kept around... the one with electric-blue eyeliner and a missing incisor... the one who is always there when it needs to drink a forty and get a hand job in a parked car and not have to discuss what it all means." I'm sure she feels the same way, buddy.

But the Fred Meyer scenes are glorious.

Kohnstamm is at his best when he's sending up a special kind of virtue-signaling liberal who claims to live their life in constant service to the oppressed, but who doesn't actually do anything for them. The relationships between the characters bring out this underlying critique, but the narrator, weirdly, gets in the way. And his obsession with linking "authenticity" to "grittiness," and then wrapping that "grittiness" in a bunch of purple prose, only reveals his distance from that "grittiness" in the first place.

The author's desire to highlight Lake City's uniqueness also leads him to manufacture regionalisms. At one point, he trademarks a "West Coast Courtesy Smile," which I'd love to see differentiated from a Midwest Courtesy Smile or just a plain old courtesy smile. Such overblown regionalisms and reaches for "authenticity" feel desperate, which is maybe the most Seattle thing about the book. But local readers will likely enjoy the familiar locations and scraps of lore. ■

Top Picks

FRI FEB 1

Pam Houston: 'Deep Creek'

In her delightful novel *Contents May Have Shifted*, Pam Houston took on the need to flee. In her latest book, *Deep Creek*, she takes on home—her own home, in particular, a 20-acre homestead high in the Rockies, where she watches over the resident Irish wolfhounds, horses, donkeys, Icelandic sheep, and wild animals that pass through, protecting both them and herself from the forces that threaten to undo them. It is here, reflecting on her life and her travels, that Houston begins to find sanctuary, and to heal from a devastating and traumatic past. (Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free.) **KATIE HERZOG**

FRI FEB 8

'Becoming': An Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama's new memoir, *Becoming*, focuses on different aspects of her life, like being a mother, her time in the White House, her role as a public-health figure, and "how she found her voice." I bought this book for my mom for Christmas—she refers to the former first lady as her "best friend" and she snatched up tickets to this event as soon as they became available. There's

no doubt that Obama will drop cute facts about her relationship with Barack, tell a few candid details about what it's like to be at the top, and wear something utterly stunning. (Tacoma Dome, 8 pm, \$150+.) **JASMINE KEIMIG**

MON FEB 11

Ronan Farrow

Somehow, in the middle of helping to redefine the way journalists report on sexual assault, Ronan Farrow finished up a book about the decades-long decline of American influence around the world. In *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*, Farrow, who worked for Barack Obama's State Department for several years, takes a look back at American diplomacy through the eyes of the weary and disaffected public servants who saw their dreams of working toward peace darken as administrations cut budgets and closed embassies. As he tracks America's turn toward isolationism following the end of the Cold War, Farrow shows how another world power—China—is filling the diplomatic gaps the United States is leaving open. (McCaw Hall, 7:30 pm, \$50–\$90.) **RICH SMITH**

Solmaz Sharif

Unless you're getting your news from Democracy Now, or you have family in the Middle East/Central America/Afghanistan, or you're detained in a tent at the border, the disastrous consequences of America's foreign policy may be escaping your

daily life. But that news stays news in Solmaz Sharif's *Look*, a finalist for the 2016 National Book Award and one of the best books of contemporary poetry published in the 21st century. *Look* shows us how easy and seductive it is for people to see others as objects, enemies, or props to generate fear for the sole purpose of gaining a small bit of power. It shows us how governments use language to achieve those ends, and it offers a different kind of language that we might use to short-circuit that mechanism. Don't miss this Seattle Arts & Lectures event. (Broadway Performance Hall, 7:30 pm, \$20–\$80.) **RICH SMITH**

WED FEB 13

Sharma Shields: 'The Cassandra'

Apollo cursed Cassandra with the ability to accurately foretell the future but have no one believe her. Spokane-based speculative fiction writer Sharma Shields, author of *The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac* (which was great), afflicts her protagonist in *The Cassandra* with the titular character's curse. But instead of foreseeing the destruction of Troy, she foresees a much larger catastrophe. Shields sets her riff on this Greek myth at the Hanford Research Center in South Central Washington during the early days of World War II. While the young woman at the center of the story, Mildred, is happy to be living on her own in a new place, she's not so happy to be dreaming about the destructive capacity of a secret weapon being developed right under her nose, and she's

less than thrilled about all the causal workplace harassment she's been enduring. (Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Aaron Dixon: My People Are Rising

Northwest African American Museum, Thurs Jan 31, 6:30 pm, free

Civic Cocktail: Rick Steves

Palace Ballroom, Wed Feb 6, 6–7:30 pm, \$25

Dana Frank: The Long Honduran Night

Elliott Bay Book Company, Fri Feb 8, 7 pm, free

Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum and Sarah Cannon

Elliott Bay Book Company, Tues Feb 5, 7 pm, free

Myrna Keliher and E.J. Koh

The Collective, Thurs Jan 31, 7 pm, free

Paul Nelson

Elliott Bay Book Company, Sun Feb 3, 3 pm, free

Seattle Arts & Lectures: Soraya Chemaly

Benaroya Hall, Thurs Jan 31, 7:30 pm, \$35/\$60

Silent Reading Party

Hotel Sorrento, Wed Feb 6, 6 pm, free

Where the Horse Takes Wing: a Madeline DeFrees Celebration

Hugo House, Thurs Feb 7, 7:30 pm, free

Early Warnings

MATTILDA BERNSTEIN SYCAMORE: SKETCHTASY
Elliott Bay Book Company, Thurs Feb 21, 7 pm, free

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Aldon Morris

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Markus Gabriel

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Basement Instincts

New music venue Belltown Yacht Club is way cooler than its name.

BY DAVE SEGAL

As the 110-capacity Belltown Yacht Club fills up with avid dancers, impressive sweat stains start spreading on shirts, blouses, and dresses at January's Wig Out!, a 1960s garage-rock, R&B, and soul dance party. The DJs—Maxwell Edison, Kevin Fitzgerald, Michael Chrietzberg, and Mike Nipper—drop a selection of obscure, high-energy 45s, and though the music is five-plus decades old, punters youngish and middle-age-ish return their energy in spades. The vibe here is so un-21st-century Seattle—and that's part of its appeal.

Belltown Yacht Club—which occupies the large space adjacent to the two-year-old Screwdriver Bar, located in the basement of the historic Barnes Building—was spawned from the minds of that establishment's three owners: Chris Jones, Dave Flatman, and

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Bryan Krieger. The trio have extensive nightlife experience from the (old) Comet Tavern, Crocodile, and Neumos.

They're part of a new wave of artsy entrepreneurs who have migrated from Capitol Hill to Belltown, along with the owners of Jupiter Bar, Neon Boots, Black Cat, and others. Together, they're shifting the locus of coolness to a part of Seattle that, in recent years, had become a playground for the rich and culturally obtuse. "We're a bunch of misfits, so we are all taking care of each other here," Krieger says.

BYC's bosses wanted to fill the void left by the loss of Second Avenue Pizza and other gritty venues. "We love this neighborhood,



TYLER BREY

Kevin Fitzgerald and Michael Chrietzberg DJ at Wig Out! at Belltown Yacht Club.

and it is just a shame to see things disappear," Flatman says. "So we wanted to have something that is here to keep promoting the Seattle music and artistic scenes in that community... to try to hold on to a little bit of

why we fell in love with Belltown."

Toward that end, they've decked out the space like a rock-and-roll fanatic's rec room. No matter where you look, you'll see manifestations of the owners' musical ob-

sessions. Jones is mostly responsible for the visual splendor: stone walls; framed LP covers (MC5, Velvet Underground, Chuck Berry, etc.); a Kurt Cobain painting; a Jimmy Page cutout; bars, ledges, and tables with hundreds of 45 adapters, 7-inch singles, CDs, and even a (rock) lobster encased within. And the jukebox is loaded with the bosses' own singles. *That* is sacrifice for the greater good.

While Flatman proclaims that BYC is primarily a rock-and-roll bar, they're open to hosting techno (like the January 26 show with Golden Madonna), hiphop (January 30 with Chong the Nomad), metal (Skelator, X Suns, and DemonHammeR on February 23), and a monthly poetry and prose open mic.

After a shaky opening night with live goth-oriented electronic music in December, BYC has improved its sound system (featuring old Mackies with robust bass capabilities), and has enlisted experienced audio experts Nick Fenton, Ross Albrechtson, and Ian LeSage to work the controls. Musicians from Seattle and elsewhere are clamoring to get slots there.

Because it's below street level, BYC eludes what Flatman calls the "crazy Belltown drama" to which the neighborhood is prone. The owners praise their cool clientele, with Flatman stating that "the ethos behind everything we do is pushing the community forward." Krieger adds, "If you are a tourist, if you are working for Amazon, if you are in a band, if you come down here, you are part of the community. You are going to be treated with respect and love, and what we give out, we are lucky enough to get that back." ■

Top Picks

THURS JAN 31

SSDD, Pushy, Dommengang

ROCK/POP Steal Shit Do Drugs is a great fucking band name. Steal Shit Do Drugs is also a great fucking band. In what *Stranger* staffer Mike Nipper described as "face down, knuckle-draggin', sweaty, early '80s sounding West Coast PUNK," the Seattle five-piece's songs (nay, battle anthems) could incite the most modest among us to riot. The bill is rounded out by a few other West Coasters in Portlandian nostalgic rock 'n' rollers Pushy and guitar-driven Californian rock group Dommengang. (Clock-Out Lounge, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$12.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

JAN 31-FEB 2

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3

CLASSICAL/OPERA This program offers two landmarks of classical music literature and one world

premiere that will likely be very good. Shostakovich composed his First Symphony when he was 18 years old, and the piece is full of all the cartoonish humor and aimless ambition you'd expect from a genius teen. Though Beethoven's third Piano Concerto is a common addition to any symphony's season, I could listen to the second and third movements every day for breakfast and feel right with the world. That's why I'm so excited to hear pianist Jonathan Biss play Caroline Shaw's world premiere. According to press materials, Shaw, the youngest person to ever win a Pulitzer Prize for music, composed the piece "as a response to Beethoven." (Benaroya Hall S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium, \$22-\$122.) RICH SMITH

FRI FEB 1

Clear Soul Forces, Wizdumb, Dom Sicily, SpecsWizard

HIPHOP/RAP There are two forms of hiphop that are important: hiphop that's moving forward and hiphop that's being perfected. Local rapper/producer SpecsWizard, who recently complet-

ed an album with Silas Black (Blakwizard), is certainly the latter. This does not mean his work is not innovative, but that it innovates in a context that's grounded in a hiphop that has been defined and coded, and yet still has room for new ideas. SpecsWizard is a veteran. His entire life has been devoted to the art. It's almost impossible to imagine him doing anything other than rapping, making beats, and painting mystical urban images on walls. (Vermillion, 8 pm, \$10.) CHARLES MUDEDE

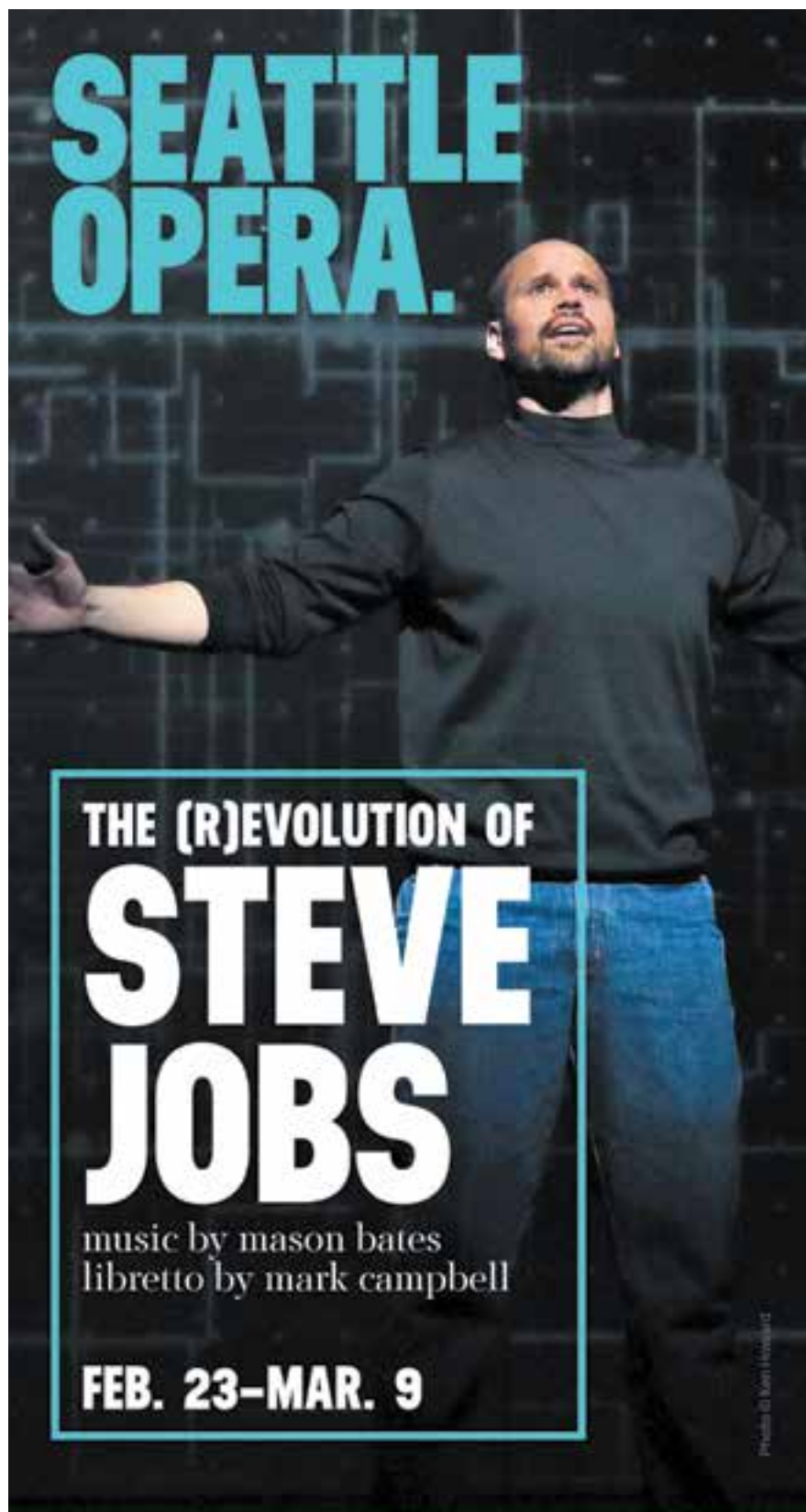
Corrosion of Conformity, Crowbar, Weedeater, Mothership

METAL/PUNK They're back, the original kings of 1980s-era, "nah, maaaaaaan, it ain't thrash, it's fuckin' CROSSOVER!!!": North Carolina-spawned Corrosion of Conformity!!! Gah, I know they're less crossover and more geriatric now, but whatever, their long-haired heavy heat is legendary. I should also give an advance warning to y'all thrashateria yobs—be careful not to tire your neck out too fast, as there are more heavies on the bill! Seriously, there's gonna be severe pounding from the almost 30-year-old group Crowbar, along with the

shredding Texan metal of Mothership, plus another group of Cackalackians, the sludgy heshers Weed-eater. (Neumos, 8 pm, \$30 (sold out).) MIKE NIPPER

David Watson, John Krausbauer, Bill Horist, Amelia Coulter

EXPERIMENTAL/NOISE New Zealand-born guitarist/bagpiper/composer David Watson moved to New York City in 1987 and has become an integral figure in that city's avant-garde music scene, playing with John Zorn's Cobra, Ikue Mori, Christian Marclay, and others. Here, he brings his bagpipe and collaborates with John Krausbauer, a powerful drone violinist in the Tony Conrad vein. Their set should make your skull hum with searing, scintillating vibrations. Bill Horist has spent much of the last quarter century extracting unprecedented sounds out of ye olde electric guitar, and his research and development has yielded a veritable river of fascinating timbres that would gobsmack Leo Fender and Les Paul—among others. Search YouTube for "20180707 Bill Horist" for examples. (Chapel Performance Space, 8 pm, all ages, \$5-\$15 donation.) DAVE SEGAL



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THINGS TO DO → Music

Depth: Regis

DJ Depth continues its reign as one of Seattle's most reliable arbiters of taste with regard to bleeding-edge club music. England's Regis (aka Karl O'Connor) has been one of the world's foremost DJ/producers of dark, hard techno for more than two decades, as well as being a genius curator of the same as cohead of Downwards Records and Sandwell District. For sheer ruggedness and intensity, few producers and selectors can match this dark magus's prowess for up-tempo 4/4 rhythms and foreboding atmospheres. You'll know it's peak time during a Regis set when it legitimately feels as if the Big One is quaking Cascadia and your paranoia intensifies with each battering-ram beat. (*Kremwerk, 10 pm–4 am, \$10/\$12.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

FEB 1–3



J. MIMNA PHOTOGRAPHY

Garage A Trois

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Cheeky avant-garde group Garage A Trois originally manifested in 1998 during a recording session for Stanton Moore's solo debut. The Galactic drummer extraordinaire, eight-string guitarist Charlie Hunter, and Seattle sax innovator Skerik laid down a weirdly captivating fusion of post-jazz, funk, and rock experimentation they christened *Mysteryfunk*, the four-song EP ranging from the wah-wah guitar and vox-box-soaked outer-space dub of the title track, to the drum and bass-meets-*On the Corner* darkness of "Chupa Cadabra." The OG lineup of Garage A Trois are back together, and this is their first time playing live in nearly two decades. Probably why all three nights of this run are sold out. (*Nectar, 8 pm, \$35 (sold out).*) **LEILANI POLK**

SAT FEB 2

Federale, Eyelids, Zebra Hunt

ROCK/POP Very solid rock bill alert. Portland's Eyelids contain current and former members of Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks, Guided by Voices, and Decemberists, and their breezy, introverted yet epiphany-laden indie rock reminds you why you cared about this smoothly melodious stuff so intently in the early '90s. (Those not around then will have to use their imaginations.) Seattle's Zebra Hunt channel the wondrous chiming and jangling linearity of New Zealand and Australia's overachieving, understated, underground-rock groups of the '80s. Portland septet Federale features ex-Brian Jonestown Massacre bassist Collin Hegna and evoke the florid, dusty melodrama of spaghetti western soundtracks. Check out "Holy Mountain" off 2016's *All the Colours of the Dark* for the most potent hit. (*Sunset Tavern, 9 pm.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

Jupiter Sprites, Darksoft, Don Piano

ROCK/POP Jupiter Sprites deliver the best kind of dream pop—it's easy to find yourself lost in the pure fuzz, the angelic vocals, the *shimmer* of it all. They remind me of the first time I ever listened to My Bloody Valentine, that feeling of warmth that

washed over me, like I was hearing what bright magenta sounded like or something. This Olympia band will be heading up to Seattle to celebrate the release of their self-titled EP, out February 1, alongside local acts Darksoft and Don Piano. (*Cafe Racer, 8 pm.*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

TUES FEB 5

Richard Thompson Electric Trio

ROCK/POP Closing in on 70 years of age, Richard Thompson has earned the right to do whatever the hell he wants. A consensus choice for guitar-hero status, folk-rock division, this British master sauntered into the pantheon during the '60s and '70s with psych-folk deities Fairport Convention and via his many recordings with wife Linda Thompson. Richard's sage, foghorn voice is one of the most comforting in music and his repertoire—including "Meet on the Ledge," "Night Comes In," "When I Get to the Border"—is more vast and compelling than most performers his age still treading the boards. (*Moore Theatre, 8 pm, all ages, \$33–\$53.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

WED FEB 6



MR. IOZO

A\$AP Rocky

HIPHOP/RAP A\$AP Rocky might be the most famous member to spring out of NYC's A\$AP Mob, likely because he had a chart-topping catchy-as-fuck track with Drake, 2 Chains, and Kendrick Lamar in "Fuckin' Problems." I can't lie, I dug it. I also don't hate "Sundress," although I might give credit to the Tame Impala track that's being sampled ("Why Won't You Make Up Your Mind?") and one of its coproducers (Danger Mouse) than A\$AP's singsong raps about an ex stepping out with her new man. And that track "Everyday"? Hot. Soulful and dark, with perfect guest tapping (Rod Stewart, Miguel, Mark Ronson), and strong A\$AP Rocky rhyme game, from more leisurely to sped-up spits matching a mid-song tempo change. Lester Black gets credit for turning me on to that one. And A\$AP Rocky gets credit for being good. (*ShoWare Center, Kent, 8 pm, \$25–\$50.*) **LEILANI POLK**

Kinan Azmeh and the Silk Road Ensemble

CLASICALL/OPERA In the hands of Kinan Azmeh, the clarinet—already a captivating and mysterious instrument with a subdued yet rich and distinctive timbre—becomes even more hypnotic and compelling. The soloist and composer generally works within a classical, jazz, and Arabic musical framework, crossing and melding qualities, and incorporating new elements and influences (like

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THINGS TO DO → Music



JIMMY FONTAINE

Indian rhythmic structures) as he goes. This date marks his world premiere of a new clarinet concerto with Seattle Symphony; he'll also be performing a program with Yo-Yo Ma's group, Silk Road Ensemble, of which he is a member. (*Benaroya Hall S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$22–\$122.*) **LEILANI POLK**

FEB 6–10

34th Seattle Improvised Music Festival

MUSIC The Seattle Improvised Music Festival is touted as the longest-running event of its kind in the United States—dedicated wholly to “the music of the moment.” Local and visiting artists are brought together, and spontaneous music happens, pulled from the cosmos and explored unencumbered by fixed tempos, chord progressions, melodies, or planned structure. Or at least that's what the press materials say. The five featured visiting artists are vibraphonist Andria Nicodemou, clarinetist/vocalist Holland Andrews, vocalist/dancer Odeya Nini, electronic musician CK Barlow, and saxophonist Patrick Shiroishi. (*Various locations, \$5–\$20.*) **LEILANI POLK**

THURS FEB 7

Tangerine, Cumulus, Emma Lee Toyoda

ROCK/POP LA-by-way-of-Seattle's Tangerine sound like music blaring from top-down cars, driving through the suburbs in the summer of 1988. The greens were greener back then, I think. Tangerine sound like watching *Pretty in Pink* for the first time. Tangerine sound like taffeta, glitter, and patent-leather shoes with socks. Tangerine sound like what a tangerine tastes like—citrusy, and sweet. The indie pop trio will be joined by Seattle band Cumulus, which is the name of the most perfect kind of cloud and sounds as such. Also on the bill: Emma Lee Toyoda, progenitor of “semi-nocturnal madgrrlrock.” (*Chop Suey, 8 pm, \$10/\$15.*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

Webdriver Torso, TERMINATor, Ghost Soda

ROCK/POP Seattle duo Webdriver Torso—bassist/keyboardist Alex Noelke and singer Emily Gorman—cast disdainful synthesizer melodies, forbidding vocals, and ruthless, jackhammering beats throughout clubland for that dancing-in-the-ruins sensation that feels paradoxically uplifting. Chris & Cosey and Adult. fans, take note. Relatively new trio TERMINATor features former

members of Rose Windows and Dræmhous. The one set I caught by them during Flower Fest 3 at Lo-Fi impressed me with its ramshackle charm—like Raincoats meet the Shaggs, but with the occasional mesmerizing flute interlude. The show is presented by *Thick As Thieves*, a quarterly free local comics art anthology edited by Ryan Andrew Tiszai and Simon Lazarus Vasta. (*Clock-Out Lounge, 9 pm, \$10.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

FRI FEB 8

Wiz Khalifa, Curren\$y

HIPHOP/RAP I recently texted my brother—a huge Wiz Khalifa fan—asking why the Pittsburgh rapper is worth listening to. “Why is any music worth listening to?” he responded. Good point, bro, good point. He went on to explain that Wiz is “unique in this rap game” and that “all he raps about is weed and pursuing your goals.” Wiz raps for the people who just wanna light up and have a good time. Which is most of Seattle. On this date, he's joined by Curren\$y of “Bottom of the Bottle” fame. (*The Showbox, 9:30 pm, all ages, \$55/\$60 (sold out).*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

FEB 8–9



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Cowboy Junkies

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK The first time I ever heard Cowboy Junkies was on a dirty, beer-stained couch at the radio station I used to help run in college. My friend and I were supposed to be studying, but we ended up just lying around listening to music. She put on their cover of Velvet Underground's “Sweet Jane,” which seemed to fit every mood I could ever have at 21—melancholy, meditative, cautious, ready to yield to the good things in life. Like the rest of the band's work. Cowboy Junkies are now celebrating 30 years together as a band. Cheers to that. (*Neptune Theatre, 8 pm, all ages, \$38.*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

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2.17 Sunday (Blues/Rock)
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5.15 NICOLA CRUZ

5.25 LAS CAFETERAS

5.31 THE PHARCYDE

THINGS DO → Music

SAT FEB 9

Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band

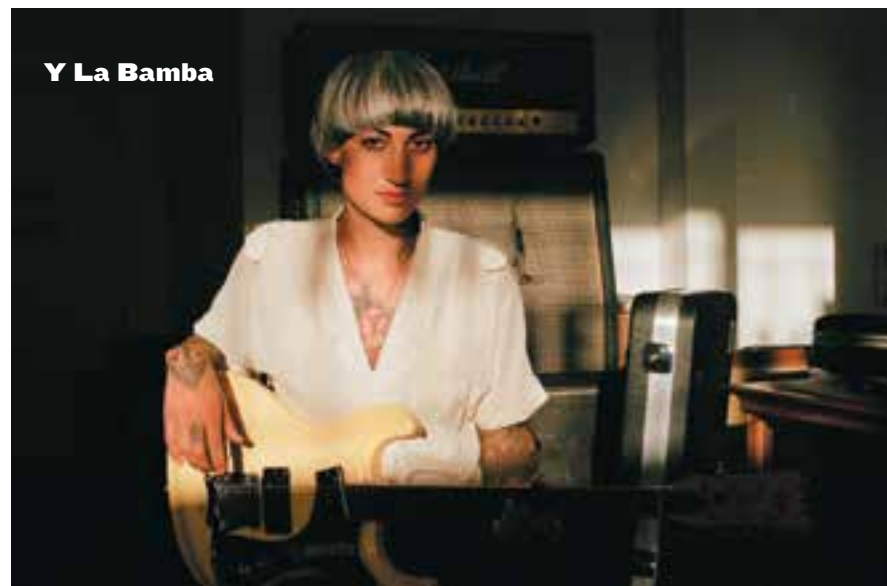
ROCK/POP Like Kraftwerk, Bob Seger largely ignores and underrates his early work. However, last year saw the rerelease of those brutal, soulful garage-rock singles he cut with the Last Heard circa 1966–67 on the *Heavy Music* comp. So maybe the Motor City icon is realizing the serious hunger for music from his wild, youthful phase? Does this mean Seger and the Silver Bullet Band will rekindle that flame, or will they play it safe with the heartland stadium-rock and sentimental balladry that scored some of your least-favorite TV ads? With a fan base consisting mainly of folks who’ve probably written their wills, the latter seems more likely—although recent sets have included early barn burner “Ramblin’ Gamblin’ Man” and the haunting troubadour move “Turn the Page.” (*Tacoma Dome, Tacoma, 8 pm, \$59–\$124.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

Clean Lines, Dirty Sidewalks, the Lucky Boys, Love & Respect

ROCK/POP Y’all, check this white-hot, all-local lineup at the North End’s hottest club, which is also celebrating its nine-year anniversary! Now, I oughta say tonight is a big deal for, um, “grunge” grandpas Love & Respect. For real, I was told they all got special day passes from the West Seattle old-folks home to play—and please, for Christ’s sake, don’t stare at their wheelchairs, you ablest jerks! As for the rest of the bands, we’re promised “shoot to thrill” raw rock-and-roll from Clean Lines, the power poppin’ new wave raves of Dirty Sidewalks, and no frills, super fun punk from Lucky Boys. (*Darrell’s Tavern, Shoreline, 8:30 pm, \$10.*) **MIKE NIPPER**

Fiji, Sly & Robbie & the Taxi Gang with Bitty McLean

FUNK/REGGAE Fiji is a massively popular Hawaiian reggae singer who traffics in mellow, sunshiny vibes geared to buoy the heart and banish worries. But the main reason to hit Nectar tonight are Sly & Robbie, the in-demand Jamaican rhythm-section gurus who’ve provided dank, slinky, and tuff grooves for countless dub, reggae, dancehall, and R&B artists in a career dating back to the 1970s. Their work with Grace Jones’s 1980s LPs alone earns them a spot in the pantheon. This tour finds them backing UK/JA lovers rock singer Bitty McLean. (*Nectar, 8 pm, \$35.*) **DAVE SEGAL**



CHRISTALANGELIQUE

Harry Partch Ensemble

CLASSICAL/OPERA The opportunity to hear the wholly idiosyncratic music of Harry Partch performed live rarely occurs, so prioritize this event. Blessed with an outsized sonic imagination, Partch also built his own assemblage of bizarre, gargantuan instruments (Chromelodeon, Cloud-Chamber Bowls, Zymo-Xyl, and Spoils of War, etc.) tuned to a microtonal scale (43 unequal tones per octave, bro), which allowed the itinerant American composer to create disorientingly beautiful works that sound as if they’re beamed in from another universe. This program will also include performances of pieces by John Cage, Erik Satie, Arvo Pärt, Luciano Berio, and Charles Ives. (*UW Meany Studio Theater, 7:30 pm, \$10.*) **DAVE SEGAL**

SUN FEB 10

Vundabar, the Red Pears, Le Grotto

ROCK/POP Boston-based group Vundabar’s most recent release, 2018’s *Smell Smoke*, came to be after frontman Brandon Hagen spent four years taking care of a relative with declining health. The record reminds me of crunching around on all the salted streets of Boston during the winter. Red brick and white snow. Bright cold days. Damp socks. Just so we’re clear, what I’m getting at with all these metaphors is that Vundabar is great Northeastern indie rock. They’ll be joined by El Monte band the Red Pears, whose music falls on this side of psychedelic-DIY-punk-inspired rock. A perfect all-ages show. (*Vera Project, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$13/\$15.*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

Y La Bamba, Tres Leches, DJ Lucha

ROCK/POP Oh my god, Y La Bamba are so good. So good, it’s hard to describe why what they do works so well. I will try: Imagine the sound of a guitar but expressed as light through a crystal, then converted back into sound. Slather Luz Elena Mendoza’s folky, craggy, beautiful vocals on top, and you have sonic gold. I’m listening to “Cuatro Crazy” right now, a single off their newest album, *Mujeres*, and it’s like pure summer, or sunshine. The Portland band will be playing with Seattle geniuses Tres Leches, whose songs “gleefully twist rock conventions while maintain hooks amid the encroaching chaos,” according to Dave Segal. This is a stellar lineup and absolutely should not be missed. (*Tractor Tavern, 8 pm, \$12.*) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

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NEUMOS

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 <p>SATURDAY 2/9 TURKUAZ OBJECT HEAVY</p>	 <p>SUNDAY 2/10 THE DREAM</p>	 <p>WEDNESDAY 2/13 LEFTOVER CRACK DAYS N DAZE + DAYGLO ABORTIONS + COP/OUT</p>
 <p>THURSDAY 2/14 VALENTINE'S DAY WITH LEMOLO OK SWEETHEART + SOPHIA DUCCINI</p>	 <p>FRIDAY 2/15 THE DIP HOSHIN + FALLON SIERRA</p>	 <p>SUNDAY 2/17 KID TRUNKS + CRAIG XEN COOLIE CUT + BASS SANTANA + FLYBOY TARANTINO + KINSOUL</p>
 <p>THURSDAY 2/21 VALENTINO KHAN CHONG THE NOMAD (DJ SET)</p>	 <p>FRIDAY 2/22 MARIBOU STATE</p>	 <p>SATURDAY 2/23 DAVID AUGUST</p>
 <p>TUESDAY 2/26 TOURIST GILLIGAN MOSS</p>	 <p>WEDNESDAY 2/27 RKC&B & SHOFFY</p>	 <p>THURSDAY 2/28 THE COATHANGERS SADGIRL</p>
 <p>FRIDAY 3/1 BRASSTRACKS KEMBA + PELL</p>	 <p>SATURDAY 3/2 MJ116</p>	 <p>SUNDAY 3/3 COMETHAZINE LIL GNAR</p>

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 <p>THURSDAY 2/7 THE WHAGS COLORWORKS + SHARK LEGS</p>	 <p>SATURDAY 2/9 MERCY PARKER KING MAMMOTH + CLOUD PERSON</p>	 <p>THURSDAY 2/14 DANCING ON MY OWN ROBYN INSPIRED VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE PARTY</p>
 <p>FRIDAY 2/15 WALL OF EARS + ZEN MOTHER EINAR</p>	 <p>SATURDAY 2/16 ALEX CAMERON & ROY MOLLOY LOLA KIRKE</p>	 <p>TUESDAY 2/19 MIYA FOLICK</p>
 <p>THURSDAY 2/21 MOON DARLING WOLCOTTS INSTANT PAIN ANNIHILATOR + SPESH</p>	 <p>FRIDAY 2/22 AYO DOT & THE UPPERCUTS + SPENCER GLENN BAND</p>	 <p>SUNDAY 2/24 H.C. MCENTIRE</p>

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<p>Saturday 2/2 BALKAN GYPSY PUNK METAL KULTUR SHOCK THE M9 9PM \$15</p>	<p>Friday 2/15 GIMME SHELTER / DESC BENEFIT DUSTY 45'S SHAWN SMITH, LITTLESPIRIT DANNY NEWCOMB ABBIGALE SMITH 9PM \$20</p>
<p>Sunday 2/10 91.3 KBCS PRESENTS Y LA BAMBA 8PM \$12/\$15</p>	<p>Saturday 2/16 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY COUNTRY LIPS 9PM \$15</p>
<p>Tuesdays 2/12, 12/19 & 2/26 KEVIN MURPHY & FRIENDS 8PM \$8</p>	<p>Thursday 2/21 91.3 KBCS PRESENTS AMY RAY BECKY WARREN 8PM \$18/\$20</p>
<p>Wednesday 2/13 PSYCHEDELIC GUITAR ROCK STEVE GUNN MEG BAIRD 8PM \$16/\$18</p>	<p>Friday 2/22 POP ROCK CAROLINE ROSE SUPERET, INGS 9PM \$15/\$18</p>
<p>Saturday 2/9 KEXP PRESENTS BRONCHO PINKY PINKY, OH, ROSE 9PM \$17/\$20</p>  <p>UP & COMING 1/30 WHALIEN, 2/1 TELLERS, 2/17 DEVIN SINHA, 2/18 COUNTRY DAVE, 2/24 DANIEL ROMANO, 2/27 SAM RIGGS, 3/3 WELLES, 3/5 JOY WILLIAMS, 3/7 LAURA VEIRS, 3/8 TIGER TIGER, 3/9 BOWIE VISION, 3/12 SISTER SPARROW</p>	

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2/9 SATURDAY		<i>The Crocodile Presents:</i> Le Butcherettes @ The Sunset Stars at Night All Ages
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THINGS TO DO → Music



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

FEB 12-13

The Delfonics with Greg Hill

JAZZ I’ve always thought of the Delfonics as the easygoing alternative to the Temptations; they enjoyed their heydays around the same time (the 1960s and ’70s) and resided in the same general sonic realms (soul and R&B). But where the Temptations got psychedelic and rocking, the Delfonics got smoother and more loving. The Philly group had a resurgence when their music was featured in *Jackie Brown*, but you likely know them from famous covers and samples of their material, from NKOTB’s rendition of “Didn’t I (Blow Your Mind This Time)” to “Ready or Not Here I Come (Can’t Hide from Love),” tapped numerous times but most notably by the Fugees in “Ready or Not” and Missy Elliott in “Sock It 2 Me.” This Delfonics lineup (there are three) is led by Greg Hill. (*Jazz Alley*, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$37.) **LEILANI POLK**

WED FEB 13

The BellRays, the Atom Age

ROCK/POP I think the BellRays have been around, off and on, for 20 years now. But they’re back again and, I swear, they haven’t lost any of the fire of their younger days. The band’s high-energy rock ‘n’ roll riffage plus Lisa Kekaula’s killer vox will still leave you feeling like you got struck by some “Black Lightning”! And from what I’ve heard, along with their high-energy jams, they’re also dropping a bit of proper Muscle Shoals–style soul in the mix. They were shit kickin’ THEN, but NOW are a mature group at the top of their game. (*The Funhouse*, 8 pm, \$15/\$18.) **MIKE NIPPER**

Jesse McCartney, Whitney Woerz

ROCK/POP It seems that as soon as Aaron Carter left my life, Jesse McCartney entered it. They both had the blond-haired-mop, blue-eyed-pop market on lock. One apparently just replaced the other, but my 10-year-old self was in love regardless. That’s why I was a little distressed to remember that McCartney did *not*, in fact, star in an episode of *Lizzie Maguire* (that was Aaron) and also wasn’t in *John Tucker Must Die* (that was Jesse Metcalfe). Even though I got my early 2000s teen-pop hunks mixed up, McCartney’s

new stuff is actually pretty catchy! He now leans to a decidedly more EDM/club sound, though there’s no doubt that the former teen heartthrob will play fan favorite “Beautiful Soul” on this night. (*Showbox Soda*, 8 pm, all ages, \$30.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

The Nels Cline 4

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK A dexterous guitarist who excels in many rock and jazz contexts, Nels Cline is most famous for his 15-year stint with avant-Americana group Wilco. His versatility is such that he might be the only musician who’s played with Julius Hemphill *and* Mike Watt. Now



NATHAN WEST

in his 60s, Cline is still thrusting into interesting sonic territory with his newish quartet, as their 2018 album *Currents, Constellations* (on the still relevant Blue Note label) proves. Here, Cline unspools circuitous motifs of

chords that sometimes glisten with intrigue and sometimes rustily fray nerves. Album highlight “Imperfect 10” sounds like Norwegian fusion deity Terje Rypdal getting oblongly funky with Tortoise. Tonight is going to be a cerebral joy. (*Columbia City Theater*, 8 pm, \$20/\$24.) **DAVE SEGAL**

Steve Gunn, Meg Baird

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Brooklyn’s Steve Gunn has a strong name-association game in indie folk. He played in the Violators with Kurt Vile for a span and collaborated with Vile outside that particular lineup. He has played with Grateful Dead–vibing Hiss Golden Messenger, celebrated guitarist/improvisor Mike Cooper, and multi-instrumental talent Mike Gangloff (Pelt, Black Twig Pickers). He has an ambling, easy-to-dig roots-rock sound dosed in very light psychedelia, a delicate high-toned vocal quality, loosely roaming guitar melodies, and songwriting that feels breezily effortless. (*Tractor Tavern*, 8 pm, \$16.) **LEILANI POLK**

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THINGS TO DO → Music

Thurs 1/31

LIVE MUSIC

📍 **BLACK LODGE** Body Void, Yarrow, Aurora Bridge, 9 pm

CENTRAL SALOON Dark Smith, Slow Elk, Wyoming Young and Strong, Priapists, 8 pm, \$5/\$7

📍 **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** WHSS Duo (Sara Schoenbeck/Wayne Horvitz), 8 pm, \$5-\$15

CHOP SUEY Happy Heartbreak, The Hollers, The Nova Darlings, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER X-Raided, Mars, 8 pm, \$30

NECTAR Hobosexual, The Black Tones, 8 pm, free

NEUMOS Sunsquabi, 8 pm, \$16

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Reality

Check, 7-11 pm, \$8

SUNSET TAVERN The Downhouse, Mhostly Ghostly, VLLY, 8 pm

TRACTOR TAVERN The Mother

Hips, Guests, 8 pm, \$15

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

📍 **TRIPLE DOOR** Gabriel Kahane, 7:30 pm, \$15-\$20

DJ

KREMWERK Habitat: J. Worra, 9 pm, \$10

THE UNDERGROUND JYST SAY YES, 10 pm-2 am, \$15

JAZZ

THE KNIFE ROOM Cin and Gy' psy Jazz with Victor Horky and his Silk Road Swing, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$20-\$25

📍 **THE ROYAL ROOM** Bad Luck, Matrio, Twin Talk, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

📍 **TULA'S** Ana Velinova, 7:30 pm, \$15

Fri 2/1

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Cavalerie, Flip Phone, Môtus, 7 pm, \$10

BLUE MOON TAVERN Dead Sonics, Guests, 8 pm, \$8

CROCODILE LEVITATE, Quackson, Sawyer James, 9 pm, \$20

DARRELL'S TAVERN Darrell's Double Down: Two Piece Fest, 8 pm, \$12

EL CORAZON U.S. Bombs, Total Chaos, Die Nasty, Projections on a Wall, 8:30 pm, \$13/\$15

HIGH DIVE The Georgetown Orbits, The Bandulus, The Seattleites, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

LUCKY LIQUOR Shizerdome, Bacon Grenade, Dilapidation, 9 pm, \$7

MOORE THEATRE Yuridia, 8 pm, \$50-\$130

RENDEZVOUS A Farewell: Roxanna Walitzki in Concert, 7:30 pm, \$12

📍 **THE ROYAL ROOM** An Evening With Matt Alber & Friends, 8:30 pm, \$20-\$35

★ 📍 **SHOWBOX SODO** LP, Lauren Ruth Ward, Slugs, 8 pm, \$28/\$30

📍 **THE SHOWBOX** The Green, 8:30 pm, \$28

★ **SUBSTATION** Celebrus Lupercalia 10, 8 pm-4 am, \$20/\$25

TACOMA DOME Dierks Bentley, Jon Pardi, Tenille Townes, Hot Country Knights, 7 pm, \$35-\$70+

TIM'S TAVERN Wrong Way at the Roundabout, The Winter Shakers, Smokey Dawn, 9 pm, \$7

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM Masters of Scottish Arts, 7:30 pm, \$28/\$49

DJ

TIMBRE ROOM Tech Startup with Teo Mattress, Livwutang, DJ Zumba, Cria Cuervos, 9 pm-2 am, \$7

THE UNDERGROUND STA 3 Year Anniversary: Indecent Noise, 10 pm-3 am, \$20

JAZZ

★ **PANTAGES THEATER** Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Lilla, 7:30 pm, \$29-\$85

📍 **THE SLAB** Secret Jazz Club Show, 7-9 pm, \$20

📍 **TULA'S** Ashlin Parker Quintet, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$20

Sat 2/2

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA The Requisite, Waking Things, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

BLUE MOON TAVERN Cloud Cover, New York City Cops, Sunday Girls, 8 pm, \$8

📍 **THE CROCODILE BACK BAR** OzoKidz, 2 pm, \$12.00

DARRELL'S TAVERN Groundhog Day with the Squirrels, Geoff Berner, Juliana Brandon, 9 pm-1 am, \$12

EDEN SEATTLE Opulent Temple: Seattle's Wonderland: Lucky 7s, 9 pm-3 am, \$20-\$30

📍 **EL CORAZON** Himsa, Witchburn, The Accused AD, Heiress, 2KLIX, Malevolent Breed, Into the Flood, 7:30 pm, \$13/\$15

📍 **FREMONT ABBEY** Alana Davis, Bird Streets, 5:30 pm, \$15/\$18

📍 **FREMONT ABBEY** Dravus House, Lizzy Gundersen, Gabriel Delayne, 8:30 pm, \$0-\$10

HIGH DIVE Groundhog Day Rawk Fest with Stucky Jackson & the Boys, Nordus, Niote Negra, Always Naked, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE The Snubs, Mangy. Throw, Hellbat, 8 pm, \$7

📍 **NEPTUNE THEATRE** JJ Grey & Mofro, The Commonheart, 8 pm, \$29

★ **PANTAGES THEATER** Jake Shimabukuro, 7:30 pm, \$29-\$85

SHOWBOX SODO Alan Walker, 7 pm, \$35 (sold out)

SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE Operation Timebomb, The Dee Dees, Idiots Rule, 9 pm-12 am

TIM'S TAVERN The Drive Through, Bartender, Strange Jerome, 8 pm, \$5

TRACTOR TAVERN Kulture Shock, Guests, 9 pm, \$15

📍 **VERA PROJECT** AJ Mitchell, Marteen, 6:30 pm, \$15/\$17

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM "The Play of Sounds": Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 2, 2 pm, \$20/\$30

📍 **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** From Spain to India: Contemporary Instrumental Masters, 8 pm, \$15-\$25

📍 **STAGE 7 PIANOS** Rachel LaFond, Live in Concert, 5-7:30 pm, \$12-\$50

📍 **TRINITY PARISH CHURCH** Vox16: What Dreams May Come, 7:30-9 pm, \$15-\$25

DJ

MONKEY LOFT Soft Option: ROAR, 10 pm-4 am, \$15/\$20

★ **PONY** Medical Rx Night: Italo Disco, Synthwave, Leftfield Dance, 9 pm, free

JAZZ

EGAN'S BALLARD JAM HOUSE Jose "Juicy" Gonzales Trio, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$15

THE ROYAL ROOM The Cumbrios, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$15

Sun 2/3

LIVE MUSIC

CENTRAL SALOON Winehouse Casual Cubs, Guests, 8 pm, \$7

📍 **COLUMBIA CITY THEATER** Adam Nystrom, Gianni Taylor, Travis Atreo, 7 pm, \$17/\$22

📍 **PHINNEY CENTER COMMUNITY HALL** Fiery Irish Fiddle Music from Frankie Gavin, 7-9 pm, \$18/\$20

SCREWDRIVER BAR Neighborhood Brats, Guests, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

★ 📍 **THE SHOWBOX** An Evening with Phil Lesh and the Terrapin Family Band, 7:30 pm, \$65 (sold out)

SUBSTATION Snaketopus, Flesh Produce, Poltersleep, 9 pm

TIM'S TAVERN Twilight Series with Randy Weeks, 5-7 pm, free

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

📍 **FLORENCE HENRY MEMORIAL CHAPEL** Highlands Chapel Concert Series: Dali Quartet, 5-6:30 pm, \$15/\$30

WASHINGTON HALL Cheating Lying Stealing, 8-10 pm, \$20

DJ

SUBSTATION DJ Nicfit & Substation Present The Dark Crystal, 6-8:30 pm, free

Mon 2/4

LIVE MUSIC

THE FUNHOUSE Bartender, 8:30 pm, \$6/\$8

📍 **NEUMOS** Gnash, Mallrat, Guardin, 7 pm, \$20

📍 **THE SHOWBOX** The Amity Affliction, Senses Fail, Belmont, 7 pm, \$25/\$29

Tues 2/5

LIVE MUSIC

📍 **BLACK LODGE** Painboys, Carrion Bloom, Pandiscordian Necrogenesis, Hostage Execution, 9 pm

CHOP SUEY Timoteo Cordero, Wavy God, Tensai, Jaz, Sharmaine, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

★ **SHOWARE CENTER** 2Cellos, 7:30 pm, \$45-\$75

JAZZ

📍 **JAZZ ALLEY** The James Hunter Six, 7:30 pm, \$29

Wed 2/6

LIVE MUSIC

CENTRAL SALOON Cashing in Karma, Rotgut Whines, 8 pm, \$5/\$7

📍 **THE FUNHOUSE** Farewell Winter, Dose, 7:30 pm, \$8/\$10

HIGHLINE Human Agony, Ulutamatu Tollent, Striations, Putrid Temple, 9 pm, \$10

📍 **NEPTUNE THEATRE** Hippo Campus, 8 pm, \$25-\$99

SUNSET TAVERN Local Liars, Projections On a Wall, Guests, 8 pm

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** El Corazon Presents: Reverend Horton Heat, 8 pm, \$28

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

📍 **BRECHEMIN AUDITORIUM** Melia Watras, 7:30 pm, free

📍 **CHRIST OUR HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH** Band of Brothers, 12:10 pm, free

JAZZ

📍 **JAZZ ALLEY** The James Hunter Six, 7:30 pm, \$29

📍 **TULA'S** Rex Gregory Sextet, 7:30-10 pm, \$15

Thurs 2/7

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA The Whags, Colorworks, Shark Legs, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Top Ace Collective X Been Busy Promotions Presents: LIL PWN, 7 pm, \$15

📍 **THE CROCODILE BACK BAR** P.O.S, 8 pm, \$18

THE FUNHOUSE The Ike Willis Project, Evie B, 8 pm, \$20/\$25

📍 **NEPTUNE THEATRE** Hippo Campus, 8 pm, \$25-\$99

📍 **NEUMOS** Two Friends, 8 pm, \$18

📍 **THE ROYAL ROOM** Toheka: Bursting with Rhythm, Live from Cape Verde, 8 pm, \$20

📍 **SEAMONSTER LOUNGE** Todd Clouser, Michael Zabrek's Proud and Nasty, 8 pm

SUNSET TAVERN Sunset Club, Tourist Activities, Linda From Work, Calm Down Party, 7:30 pm

TIM'S TAVERN International Clash Day: Julian Stocking, Guests, 5-7 pm, free

TIM'S TAVERN The Cosmic Shuffle, Counterbalance, The Laughing Group, 8 pm, \$5

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** El Corazon Presents: Reverend Horton Heat, 8 pm, \$28

📍 **TRIPLE DOOR** Lisa Koch Big Ass Birthday Bash with Vickie Shaw, Roxanna Ward, Guests, 7:30 pm, \$25-\$35

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

📍 **BRECHEMIN AUDITORIUM** Brechemin Piano Series, 7:30 pm, free

DJ

CAFE RACER sPIN!: Vinyl & Unicorns Edition, 8 pm, \$5/\$7

KREMWERK Habitat: Matt Lange, 9 pm-2 am, \$10

Q NIGHTCLUB Field Trip 058: Neon Steve, 9 pm-2 am, \$10

Fri 2/8

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Drama, Claire George, 7 pm, \$17

★ 📍 **CROCODILE** The Aces, 7 pm, \$15/\$18 (sold out)

EL CORAZON The Emo Night Tour with the Seafloor Cinema, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

HIGH DIVE Spyn Reset, Lost Ox, The New Triumph, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

LO-FI Triggerwords, Drama Bahama, Señor Fin, Guests, 8 pm-12 am, \$12

NECTAR The 4th Annual "Dead Of Winter" with the Andy Coe Band, 8 pm, \$16/\$21

📍 **THE ROYAL ROOM** Wes Weddell, Ben Mish Trio, Lizzie Weber, 7 pm, \$10/\$12

📍 **SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** Emmet Cahill, 7:30-9 pm, \$30/\$45

SUBSTATION Witch Mountain, Witch Ripper, Summoned By Giants, Bakushin, Scorpiknox, Despairer, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

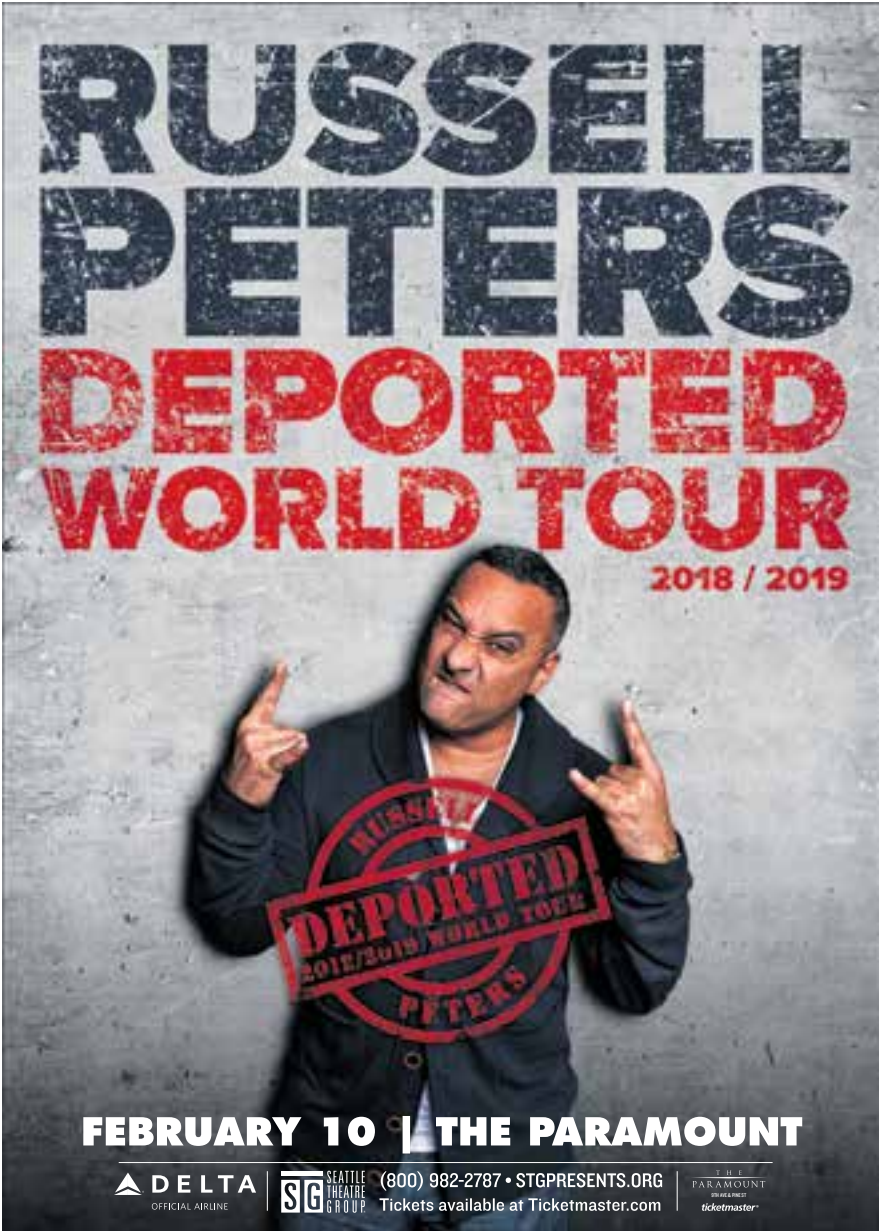
SUNSET TAVERN Annie Ford Band, Led To Sea, Melez, 9 pm

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** El Corazon Presents: Reverend Horton Heat, 8 pm, \$28

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

📍 **BENAROYA HALL ILLSLEY BALL NORDSTROM RECITAL HALL** The Brass: Ferdinand the Bull, \$12

★ **BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM** E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert, \$60-\$120





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WET + KILO KISH
HELENA DELAND

MARCH 26

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SAT MARCH 30
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APRIL 3
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LOVELYTHEBAND | APR 20 • CASPAR BABYPANTS | APR 27 • RIVAL SONS | MAY 2
BAD SUNS | MAY 7 • THE TEA PARTY | MAY 14 • ELLE KING | MAY 20
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HIGHLINE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Northwest Symphony Orchestra Valentine Concert, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$20

DJ

EDEN Catharsis, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, \$20

KREMWERK Noise Complaint ft. Botnek, 10 pm, \$15

ORA NIGHTCLUB Orjan Nilsen, 10 pm-2 am, \$15-\$200

THE UNDERGROUND STA 3 Year Anniversary: RAM, 10 pm-3 am, \$20

JAZZ

BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL Marine Corps Jazz Orchestra, 7-8:30 pm, free

TULA'S East-West Trumpet Summit with Ray Vega & Thomas Marriott, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$30

THE FUNHOUSE Elis Paprika & the Black Pilgrims, Ghenes, DJ Omarte, 8:30 pm, \$8/\$10

★ **TACOMA DOME** Justin Timberlake, Guests, 7:30 pm, \$54-\$254+

CLASSICAL/OPERA

★ **BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM** E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert, \$60-\$120

FOSTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Rainier Symphony - Poems: Prophetic and Pastoral, \$18

THE ROYAL ROOM Pacific MusicWorks: Will Power - Shakespeare in Song, 8 pm, \$15-\$25

Sat 2/9

LIVE MUSIC

BALLARD HOMESTEAD Tony Furtado, Ian Moore, 7:30-10 pm, \$20/\$25

CHOP SUEY Ron Gallo, Post Animal, 6 pm, \$16/\$18

CROCODILE Mickey Avalon & Dirt Nasty, 8 pm, \$25-\$75

FRED WILDLIFE REFUGE Quiet, Crazy Eyes, Fifer, 8 pm, \$12

FREMONT ABBEY Front Country, The Warren G. Hardings, 8 pm, \$10-\$15

HARD ROCK CAFE Band It Seattle Valentine's Love Show, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

HIGH DIVE Andonimus & The Look'd Pocket, D.C. Israel, Beni Bryant, Kristen Palmer, Scott Clay, 9 pm, \$10/\$15

MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE (MOPOP) Sound Off! 2019 Semifinals 1, 8-9:30 pm, \$14

NEUMOS Turkuaz, Object Heavy, 8 pm, \$23

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Hippie Sabotage, Sebastian Paul, 8 pm, \$28/\$31

RENDEZVOUS Saints by Day, Oliver Elf Army, The Lightweight Champs, 10 pm, \$10

SCREWDRIVER BAR Rat City Ruckus, Dead Bars, Sour Notes, FCON, 8 pm, \$10/\$12

SHOWBOX SODO Boombox Cartel, 7 pm, \$36/\$38

TRACTOR TAVERN Broncho, Pinky Pinky, 9 pm, \$17

VERA PROJECT Adrienne Lenker, Luke Temple, 8 pm, \$16/\$18

VICTORY LOUNGE Tiger Rider, Sea Salt, Dearheart, 8:30-11:30 pm, \$5/\$8

CLASSICAL/OPERA

BENAROYA HALL ILLSLEY BALL NORDSTROM RECITAL HALL The Brass: Ferdinand the Bull, \$12

★ **BENAROYA HALL S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM** E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert, \$60-\$120

SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Pacific MusicWorks: Leading Ladies, 7:30 pm, \$35/\$45

DJ

CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE Denim & Diamonds, 9 pm, \$10

CONOR BYRNE Holla! A '90s and '00s Hip Hop Throwback Party!, 9 pm, free

ORA NIGHTCLUB Eli & Fur, 9 pm-2 am, \$20-\$40

JAZZ

TULA'S East-West Trumpet Summit with Ray Vega & Thomas Marriott, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$30

CLASSICAL/OPERA

BENAROYA HALL ILLSLEY BALL NORDSTROM RECITAL HALL The Brass: Ferdinand the Bull, \$12

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ORA NIGHTCLUB Eli & Fur, 9 pm-2 am, \$20-\$40

JAZZ

TULA'S East-West Trumpet Summit with Ray Vega & Thomas Marriott, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$30

Sun 2/10

LIVE MUSIC

COLUMBIA CITY THEATER KEUNING, 8 pm, \$13/\$15

Mon 2/11

LIVE MUSIC

SUNSET TAVERN Kaylyn Rogers, Luke Francis, Leah Lawson, 7:30 pm, \$10

★ **TACOMA DOME** Justin Timberlake, Guests, 7:30 pm, \$54-\$254+

CLASSICAL/OPERA

BENAROYA HALL Archdiocese of Seattle - Catholic Choir Festival, 7 pm, \$13

Tues 2/12

LIVE MUSIC

CENTRAL SALOON Model Snake, Blade Palace, Smoker Dad, 8 pm, \$5/\$7

EL CORAZON Born of Osiris, Chelsea Grin, Make Them Suffer, 7 pm, \$20/\$23

HIGH DIVE Death By Overkill, Rebelle, (H)ourglass, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

NECTAR Seattle Ska Extravaganza, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$13

THE SHOWBOX Blackberry Smoke, Quaker City Night Hawks, 8:30 pm, \$25/\$28

SUNSET TAVERN Bible Study, The Square Feet, Wrong Way At the Roundabout, 8 pm

CLASSICAL/OPERA

NAKED CITY BREWERY & TAPHOUSE Pacific MusicWorks: Will Power - Shakespeare in Song, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$25

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL Seattle Collaborative Orchestra: One Thousand and One, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$20

Wed 2/13

LIVE MUSIC

CENTRAL SALOON Shivertwins, Sharkie, Heavy Denim, 8 pm, \$5/\$7

CHOP SUEY Mass Appeal Starting 5 Tour, 8-10 pm, \$15

HIGH DIVE Broken Hearts' Ball 2019 with the E-Neptunes, Tigers in the Tank, the Hard Rocks, Guests, 8 pm, \$6/\$8

NEUMOS Leftover Crack, Days N Daze, Dauglo Abortions, COP/OUT, 7 pm, \$19-\$23

THE ROYAL ROOM The Piazzolla Show by the Tangoheart Quintet, 7:30 am-10:30 pm, \$15/\$20

SUNSET TAVERN Winter, Triptides, Guests, 8 pm, \$12

TIMBRE ROOM Amateur Eyes, Jack Carrick, Foxy Apollo, 8 pm, \$10

CLASSICAL/OPERA

FOLIO: THE SEATTLE ATHENAEUM Paul Taub in Recital, 7-8:30 pm, \$20/\$25

DJ

NECTAR Nightmares on Wax, DJ Kid Hops, 8 pm, \$21/\$26

JAZZ

BRECHMIN AUDITORIUM Jazz Innovations, 7:30 pm, free

THINGS TO DO → Film

Jimi vs. Joni

Two musical icons—one long gone, the other celebrated in her 75th year—hit the big screen.

BY LEILANI POLK



JONI: GETTY IMAGES FOR THE MUSIC CENTER, JIMI: ELECTRIC CHURCH

Mitchell and Hendrix: two very different icons with similarly wide influence.

Jimi Hendrix and Joni Mitchell are paradoxical icons. The former gave one of the most monumental performances at the original Woodstock; the latter wrote one of the most famous songs about the festival without ever attending it.

Hendrix was deeply entrenched in the counterculture; Mitchell considered herself outside of it despite her ties to it, and in the years since, has been rather critical of it.

JONI 75: A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Thurs Feb 7,
various theaters, 7 pm

JIMI HENDRIX:

ELECTRIC CHURCH
Wed Feb 13, SIFF Cinema
Uptown, 7 pm

Hendrix was deeply entrenched in the counterculture; Mitchell considered herself outside of it despite her ties to it, and in the years since, has been rather critical of it. He dominated rock and roll and played electric guitar like he had a direct line to the Muse, like the guitar was an extension of his being, and wrung the loudest, most provocative sounds from it; she was the mistress of folk and played acoustic guitar in thoughtful open tunings, seemingly offhandedly but in reality inventively melodic and harmonic.

His music was wild, spiritual, psychedelic, carefree, and often loud; hers was subtle and gentle and confessional, unobtrusive and often quiet, but so lovely.

They were peers with overlapping fame, but Hendrix died at age 27, before he presumably achieved his creative peak. Critics argue that Mitchell—alive, age 75, though retired since 2007—seemed to reach her peak in the 1970s, with each album that followed 1976's *Hejira* a little less great than the last.

Despite their differences, both musicians have inspired artists across genres and decades, and helped shape the musical landscape ever after. And both are getting their due in the coming weeks with single-night film engagements.

Jimi Hendrix: Electric Church chronicles the artist's July 4, 1970, performance at the Atlanta International Pop Festival, one of the last big fests of the era. It drew an estimated 500,000 people to a podunk town called Byron about an hour south of Atlanta. It was one of Hendrix's last great performances; he died a few months later. The 16 mm footage sat virtually untouched for 30 years, until it was recovered, edited, and bookended by interviews that set the context and give background and commentary on the fest. The talking heads range from Paul McCartney to former bandmate Billy Cox to modern guitar phenom Derek Trucks to several Byron townsfolk who experienced the fest firsthand. The doc originally premiered on Showtime in 2015, and had a DVD release, but the current run in select theaters is the first time it's getting the big-screen treatment.

Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration was captured during a two-night run of star-studded, sold-out benefit shows at the Music Center in Los Angeles this past November. It features a handpicked group of Mitchell's peers and protégés performing her music—including Brandi Carlile, Seal, Norah Jones, Los Lobos and La Marisoul, James Taylor, and Rufus Wainwright—interspersed with behind-the-scenes interviews. While a screener of the concert film was unavailable at the time of this writing, all accounts of the event itself describe a loving, reverential, and at times poignant homage to an impressive five-decade career.

One film is tied to the past; the other is rooted in the present. But both are nurtured by nostalgia and shed light on how much influence these two artists wielded—one from well beyond the grave, the other a dozen years deep into her retirement. ■

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2 FOR 1 RENTAL WEDNESDAY

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SEMESTER ONE

JANUARY 24: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (1955)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1955)

FEBRUARY 4: NORTH BY NORTHEAST (1959)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1959)

FEBRUARY 25: ALANNA
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1959)

MARCH 8: JUNE JUNE (1959)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1959)

MARCH 22: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (1955)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1955)

APRIL 11: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (1955)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1955)

APRIL 25: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (1955)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1955)

MAY 19: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (1955)
DIRECTED BY ROBERT ROSS (1955)

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FEB 25
LALA
Featuring Todd Gilson live as the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ

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FEB 2-5, 7



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MOULIN ROUGE



NATURAL BORN KILLERS



DREAM DATE SING ALONG:
BOY BAND vs. GIRL GROUP

THINGS TO DO → Film

Top Picks

OPENING FRI FEB 1

‘The Heiresses’

The problem always begins with class. What do you do? What do you make? What do you own? These factors determine your place in society, and, as a consequence, where you live, whose friendship you can accept, and, above all, who you can love. In the Paraguayan film *The Heiresses*, the question of love and status is considerably complicated. Class has always failed to police love in a simple manner. (SIFF Film Center, \$11/\$14.) CHARLES MUDEDE

TUES FEB 5

‘Afghan Cycles’

The greatest form of protest is on display in *Afghan Cycles*: women daring to ride their bicycles even though it's forbidden. The new documentary from Seattle-based filmmaker Sarah Menzies is powerful—it's a feminist anthem for the ages propelled by two wheels and the drive for freedom. The subjects of *Afghan Cycles* range from the women on the National Cycling Team in Kabul to the women whose simple act of riding a bike to do errands is a valiant act of defiance. (This special screening benefits Bike Works, which aims to empower youth and make bicycling accessible to the Seattle community.) (Ark Lodge Cinemas, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$25 + optional donation.) NATHALIE GRAHAM

‘Legend of the Demon Cat’

The great Chinese director Chen Kaige's first masterpiece is *Farewell My Concubine*, which in the 1990s helped launch a new league of Chinese directors. His second is *The Emperor and the Assassin*. After these art-house successes, he directed an American thriller, *Killing Me Softly*, and a bunch of films for mainstream Chinese audiences, the latest of which is *Legend of the Demon Cat*. It's set in the Tang Dynasty and concerns a very, very evil pussy. No matter what the subject, Chen's visuals always stand out. (Various locations, 7 pm, \$11-\$13.) CHARLES MUDEDE

FEB 6-14

‘Pedicab Driver’

This Hong Kong martial-arts film was completed in one of the most important years of the 20th century, 1989. It stars its director, Sammo Hung. He is the pedicab driver. He falls in love with a woman who has lots of problems, the biggest of which is her boss. He is a bad, bad man. The film also has other complications, which the hero must confront and solve if he

ever hopes to hold the woman he loves in his arms forever. (Grand Illusion, \$10.) CHARLES MUDEDE

OPENING FRI FEB 8

‘Cold Pursuit’

Oh my god, it's Liam Neeson. Oh my god, someone has fucked with him again. As in his other action films, he is just a guy trying to lead a normal life, but then the shit hits the fan and the bullets start flying. Oh my god, I can never get enough of Neeson's troubles. I can't stop watching him in the same story. The latest, *Cold Pursuit*, is based on a 2014 film called *In Order of Disappearance*, which *Stranger* contributor Andrew Wright described as "a Scandinavian thriller that certainly hits the Coen piñata hard." (Wide release.) CHARLES MUDEDE

WED FEB 13

‘Dirty Dancing’

It's a classic case of upper-crust privilege quite literally rubbing up against the working class in this slice of '80s magic dosed in '60s nostalgia. Its soundtrack culls from both eras and features some unforgettable odes, including Patrick Swayze at his power-ballad best in "She's Like the Wind" (bet you forgot—or didn't even know?—that was him), a pre-nose-job Jennifer Grey as a naive and well-meaning almost-adult, and one of the most enduring movie one-liners ever ("No one puts Baby in a corner"). There are dance scenes and practice montages (iconic attempts at lifts, anyone?), urgent drama spurred by a case of mistaken pregnancy-causing identification, and, of course, the late, great Swayze at his smoldering sex-symbol best. You've likely seen this movie a thousand times, it is that good. You'll probably see it again. Maybe on the big screen? (Varsity Theatre, 7 pm, \$13.) LEILANI POLK

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Blade of Fury
Grand Illusion, Feb 1 & 3, \$10

Capernaum
SIFF Cinema Uptown, opening Fri Feb 8, \$11/\$14

Children's Film Festival Seattle
Northwest Film Forum, \$12-\$180, through Feb 9

Genesis 2.0
Grand Illusion, Feb 1-7, \$10

The Grave Plot Film Festival
Ark Lodge Cinemas, Sat Feb 2, 12-4 pm, \$12/\$15

Moving History: Capturing Cascadia's Cassettes
Northwest Film Forum, Sun Feb 10, 5 pm, \$12

Silent Movie Mondays: A Man There Was
Paramount Theatre, Mon Feb 11, \$10

Early Warnings

ALITA, BATTLE ANGEL Wide release, opening Thurs Feb 14

NOIR CITY 2019 SIFF Cinema Egyptian Feb 15-21, \$150 (full pass)

THINGS DO → Food & Drink

Feeling Empty? Try Olive Garden

If you're alone on Valentine's Day,
look no further.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM



COURTESY OF OLIVE GARDEN

Indulge in carb-heavy feasting (and people-watching) this Valentine's Day.

Freshly dumped? Living the single life? Romance is a sham? Your significant other's tech job uprooted them and replanted them in the Deep South? Excellent. Go to Olive Garden on Valentine's Day.

It's warm in Olive Garden. The walls are a welcoming color. It smells like salad dressing. Everyone seems happy you're there.

A couple years ago on Valentine's Day, my friends dressed to the nines and journeyed up to the Lynnwood Olive Garden to have their own friend date. They loved it. The people-watching is amazing—the Garden is a very popular date spot, it turns out—and so are the endless breadsticks and bottomless salad. What more could you want?

If the “tech job” example in my first paragraph seemed a little too specific, there's a reason. This past week, my boyfriend relocated to Georgia. We're doing the whole “long distance” thing. It's supposedly temporary. But adapting to that absence has been a struggle. Especially for me. I'm a worrier.

So as a distraction, and an excuse for some hearty Italian food, I took inspiration from my friends and treated myself to Olive Garden. I brought two coworkers—one of them single and the other one craving free food on *The Stranger's* dime. Our waiter, Andy, gave us his business card, which says he's a “Rock-Star” real-estate agent when he's not waiting tables. He told us he's from Macon, Georgia.

“I just turned 50,” said Andy, who didn't look 50. “Wine, classical music, and the arts keep me young! That, and I don't sweat the small stuff!” Sage advice, Andy.

There was a mini-tablet on the table

where we were supposed to order. It was confusing. We just wanted Andy. Also, why did the mini-tablet have a camera? Olive Garden Big Brother—is that you? We sought out Andy. And, with his help, we feasted.

For the appetizer, we indulged in loaded pasta chips (fried ravioli that you can dip in marinara sauce). It's genius. We gobbled them up before the first set of breadsticks even came out. Then, of course, we ate breadsticks. They were piping hot, and we dunked them in a five-cheese marinara sauce boat. Then came the salad, at first undressed. Once we got dressing, it had a delightful tang. We had two helpings. The wine, while zesty, tasted like watered-down grape juice, which made it easy to drink a lot of it.

For the entrées, one of us had a Tour of Italy (three dishes: pasta, lasagna, and chicken Parm). One of us had baked ziti. One of us had classic spaghetti and meatballs. The place was packed with couples and friends and families. I wonder if they finished their food. We sure didn't. Olive Garden is truly an immersive experience, and Olive Garden always wins.

Andy said his goodbyes. When we told him we worked at *The Stranger*, he told us he loves *The Stranger* so much that he sometimes sends the print edition to his friends back in Georgia. Then he told us that the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* were fake news, so we weren't sure how to feel about his compliments about *The Stranger* anymore.

I went home and slept soundly for the first time in a while. For lunch the next day, I toured the rest of Italy. ■



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-Chelsea Lin, Seattle Magazine, October 2018

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THINGS TO DO → Food & Drink

Top Picks

SAT FEB 2

Belgian Fest

Brewing beers with Belgian yeast yields a range of ales with a distinctive fruity flavor. This festival featuring more than 100 Belgian-style beers crafted by Washington breweries is the perfect opportunity to taste them all, including funky lambics, tangy saisons, dubbels, tripels, abbeyes, and wits. If you work up an appetite, food trucks like Dante's Inferno Hot Dogs and Buddha Brud-dah will be on-site slinging hearty fare. (Fisher Pavilion, 12–9:30 pm, \$5–\$45.) JULIANNE BELL

SAT FEB 9

Alki Winter Beer & Food Truck Festival

As Special Olympics Washington attempts to set the Guinness World Record for the “largest polar plunge” ever into the punishingly icy waters of Puget Sound, the Mobile Food Rodeo will provide warming sustenance for plungers and onlookers alike. There will be flaky pastries from Piroshky Piroshky, slow-roasted wood-smoked barbecue from Pecos Pit Bar-B-Que, Japanese taiyaki (fish-shaped cakes) from BeanFish, fried chicken from Ezell's, fry bread and tacos from Native American food truck Off the Rez, and more. Plus, 10 local breweries will be serving their offerings from inside the winter beer-tasting garden. (Alki Beach, 11 am–4 pm, \$25–\$45.) JULIANNE BELL



BEECHER'S CHEESE

Beecher's Cheese for All - Seattle

Cold winters call for comfort food, and Kurt Beecher Dammeier's household-name handmade cheese company will rise to the occasion. At this tour, local chefs will prepare mac and cheese and cheeseburgers made with the company's various cheeses and Mishima Reserve Wagyu beef. (Block 41, 2–8 pm, \$45/\$75.) JULIANNE BELL

SUN FEB 10

Pike Chocofest

Dive headfirst into chocoholic bacchanalia with 10—count 'em 10—drink tickets in tow at this an-

nual pre-Valentine's Day bash. Indulge in libations from dozens of breweries, cideries, wineries, and distilleries, and sate your sweet tooth with confections from Fran's Chocolates, Theo Chocolate, Chukar Cherries, Gelatiamo, Seattle Chocolate Company, Intrigue Chocolate, and more. Cut your sugar rush with something savory via bites from local restaurants like RN74 and Outlier. And know that all your hedonism supports a good cause: Proceeds benefit the Washington Trail Association's efforts to protect local trails. (Pike Brewing Company, 6–9 pm, \$60.) JULIANNE BELL

MON FEB 11

Author Talk: 'Zaitoun' by Yasmin Khan

In her new book, *Zaitoun* (“olive tree” in Arabic), British food and travel writer Yasmin Khan showcases the bright and sparkling cuisine of Palestine, from roast chicken with sumac and red onions to a passion-fruit cake studded with crimson pomegranate arils. However, *Zaitoun* is far more than just a cookbook: Khan, who worked as a human-rights campaigner for a decade with a special focus on Middle East conflict, tirelessly gathered stories and recipes from Palestinians of all backgrounds. She'll visit all the way from the UK for this event, where she'll discuss Palestinian cuisine and sign copies of the book purchased from the Book Larder. A bite from the book will be available to try. (Book Larder, 6:30 pm, free.) JULIANNE BELL

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

New Bars & Restaurants

- INTERBAY**
Oak's Tex Mex
Tex-Mex barbecue
1417 Elliott Ave W

OTHELLO
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- PHINNEY**
Windy City Pie
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WHITE CENTER
Jarochita's Taqueria
Mexican restaurant
9641 15th Ave SW

Short List

- 99 Reasons to Stay Downtown**
Various locations (downtown Seattle), through Feb 1

Beecher's Cheese for All - Issaquah
Pickering Barn, Issaquah, Fri Feb 8, 5 pm, \$45
- Beecher's Cheese for All - Tacoma**
Alma Mater, Tacoma, Wed Feb 6, 5–7 pm, \$45

Brewology
Pacific Science Center, Fri Feb 8, 7–10 pm, \$50

A Midwinter's Night Dinner Pop-Up
Marian Built, Thurs Jan 31, 7–10 pm, \$99

Raclette Party
The Estates Wine Room, Sat Feb 9, 3–6 pm, \$40



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MON - FRI 4PM-9PM

\$4 WELLS
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Early Warnings

- SEATTLE WINE AND FOOD EXPERIENCE** Various locations, Feb 21–24, \$55–\$250

SEATTLE CAKE CON Fremont Foundry, Sun Feb 24, 11 am–5 pm, \$24/\$55

RESTAURANT AFTER HOURS 2019 Seattle Aquarium, Wed Feb 27, 6:30–8:30 pm, \$35/\$65

AN EVENING WITH SAMIN NOSRAT Benaroya Hall, Sun March 10, 7:30 pm, \$25–\$45

LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN

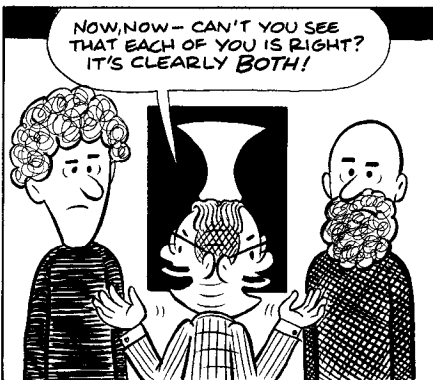
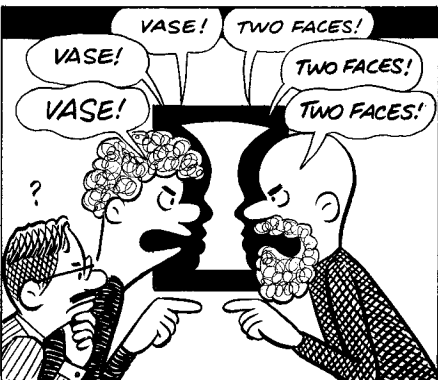
Don't do it, Howard.



ELAINE LIN



MOLLY FAIRHURST



JOHNNY SAMPSON

Ten Yr. Challenge BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
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27	28	29							30					
31					32	33	34	35				36		
37					38							39		
40				41								42		
43			44							45				
46						47	48	49	50					
		51			52							53	54	55
56	57				58							59		
60					61							62		
63					64							65		

ACROSS

- 1. Posits
- 5. Serving of iceberg lettuce
- 10. Pod in an office break room
- 14. It may be fatal
- 15. Ever
- 16. She's Talisa on "Game of Thrones"
- 17. Went like hell
- 18. Not domesticated
- 19. Fight the power
- 20. Effective and HOTT Japanese noodles?
- 23. Terrarium creature
- 24. Oil holder
- 27. Pilgrim John
- 30. Estate in "Citizen Kane"
- 31. Rejection of Merkel
- 32. Forward
- 36. Green Bay's st.
- 37. Making out with a short and squat Hollywood director Eli?
- 40. Mannheim "man!"
- 41. 1998 Winter Games host
- 42. Baseball analyst Hershiser
- 43. Suitable for the whole family
- 45. Man of the house
- 46. Unified
- 47. Jerome Powell's agcy.
- 51. Viscid cable in the Nile?

- 56. Monthly Oil Market Report publisher
- 58. Toward the perimeter
- 59. Adam's son
- 60. Ren Faire handle
- 61. Coll. whose women's basketball team won a record 111 straight games
- 62. What some fans do
- 63. Clean it up!
- 64. Isn't buying it
- 65. Peeper problem

DOWN

- 1. Mennen aftershave brand
- 2. 63-Across maker
- 3. Automaker Benz
- 4. Adds some sugar, say
- 5. Eucharist
- 6. Kindle book, e.g.
- 7. ___ Dragon (the "Captain" of Captain & Tennille)
- 8. Nasty stare
- 9. Poet ___ Wheeler Wilcox
- 10. Bibimbap fare
- 11. Uses portmanteau, linguistically
- 12. Card game with the spin-off Dos
- 13. Gentle touch
- 21. Symbol on the flag of Argentina
- 22. John Irving character Owen
- 25. Changed one's story
- 26. In an opulent way
- 27. World capital that has the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations
- 28. Some camera lenses
- 29. Drying implements
- 30. Mash note sign-off
- 32. Minor setback
- 33. Frittata base
- 34. Bucks pack
- 35. Lemon on TV
- 38. List in the back
- 39. Streets
- 44. Puts into law
- 45. "___ Untergang" (2004 German movie that gave us the "Hitler reacts" meme)
- 47. Ceasefire
- 48. Approach, as at a singles bar
- 49. Calendar listing
- 50. Certain plants
- 52. "Cut ___ Hair" (Pavement tune)
- 53. "Yeah, uh-huh"
- 54. Hinge (upon)
- 55. Fashionista's mag
- 56. Unit of resistance
- 57. Trivial Pursuit piece

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